



THORCAL



The Cage

ROSINSKI - VAN HAMME



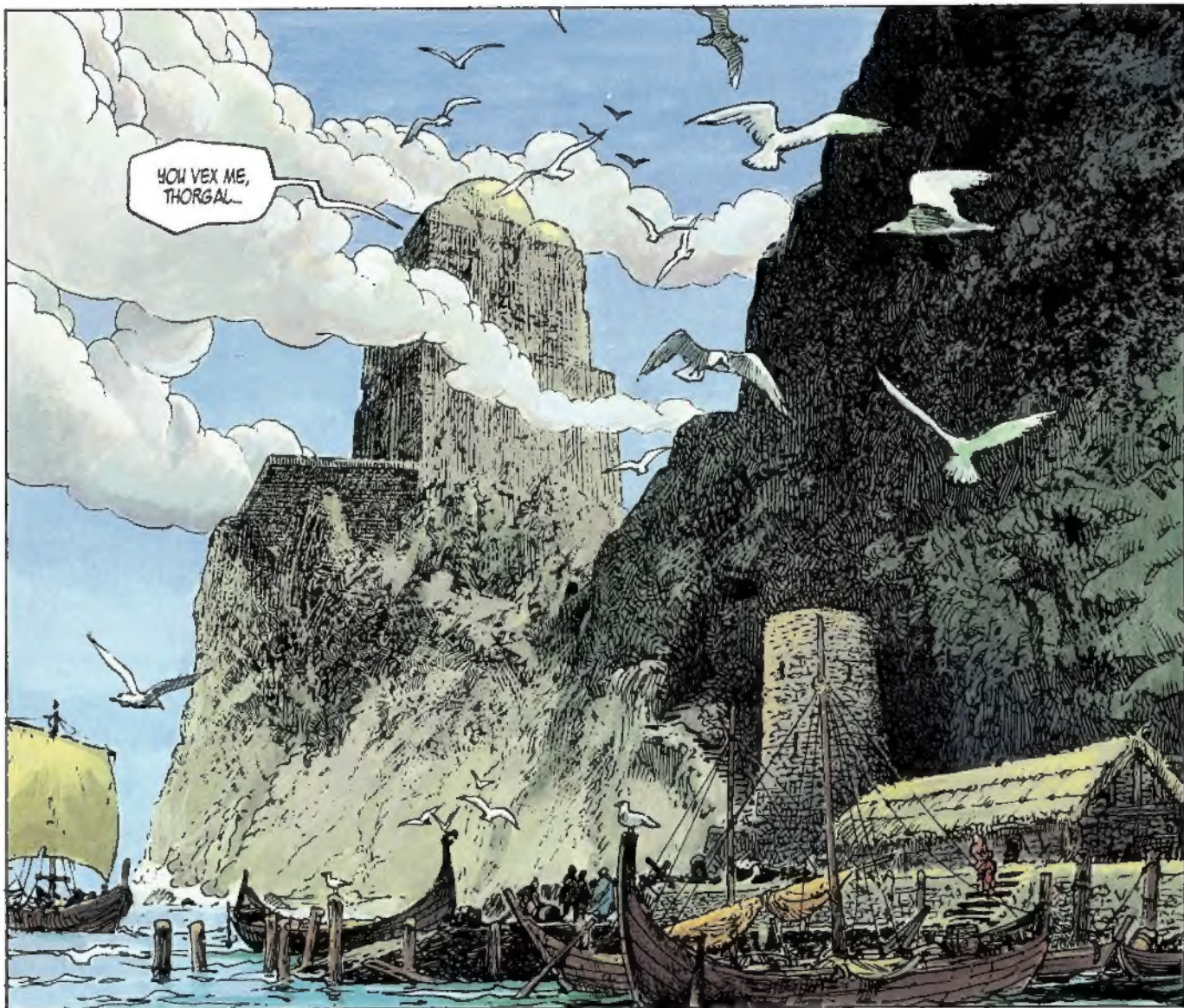
ROSINSKI-VAN HAMME

THORGAL

The Cage

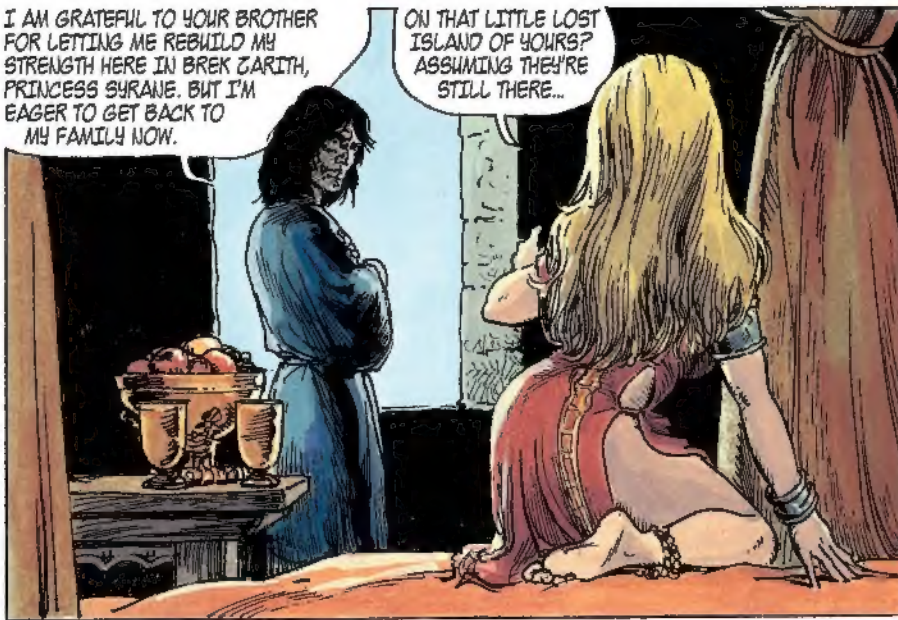


Colours: GRAZA



I AM GRATEFUL TO YOUR BROTHER FOR LETTING ME REBUILD MY STRENGTH HERE IN BREK ZARITH, PRINCESS SYRANE. BUT I'M EAGER TO GET BACK TO MY FAMILY NOW.

ON THAT LITTLE LOST ISLAND OF YOURS? ASSUMING THEY'RE STILL THERE...



HOW MANY YEARS DID YOU SAY YOU SPENT WITH THAT KRISSE OF VALNOR, THORGAL AEGIRSSON? TWO? THREE? I'M AFRAID YOUR BELOVED AARICIA HAS LONG FORGOTTEN YOU.

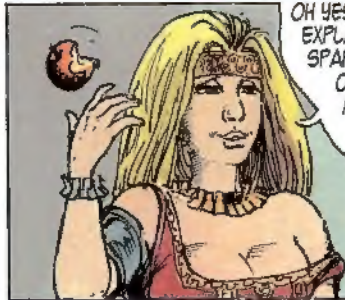


OR AT THE VERY LEAST SHE'LL HAVE REPLACED YOU. PEASANT OR PRINCESS, NO WOMAN CAN SURVIVE ALONE IN THIS MAN'S WORLD. YOUR HOPES OF FINDING YOUR WIFE AGAIN WILL ONLY LEAD TO A MOST CRUEL DISAPPOINTMENT.



YOU DON'T KNOW AARICIA. AND DON'T FORGET MY CHILDREN.

OH YES, YOUR CHILDREN... DIDN'T YOU EXPLAIN TO ME HOW YOU'D LEFT TO SPARE THEM SOME DIVINE CURSE OR OTHER? YOU CAN'T HAVE MISSED THEM MUCH THEN, THOSE CHILDREN OF YOURS.



ENOUGH!



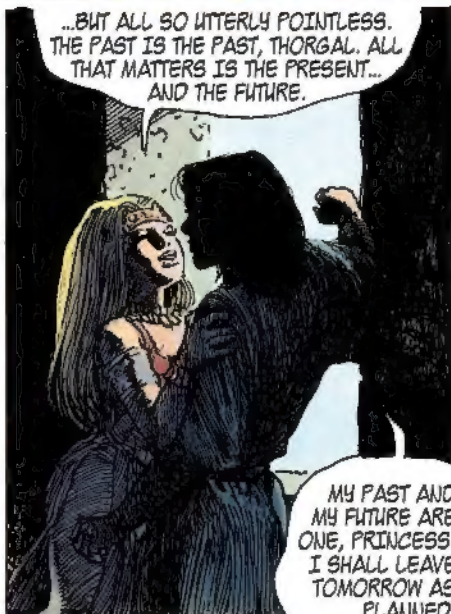
STOP THIS CRUEL GAME, SYRANE. I KNOW THAT, ALBEIT WITH THE BEST OF INTENTIONS, I MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE. YOU DON'T NEED TO TWIST THE KNIFE; THE WOUND IS PAINFUL ENOUGH WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

THE TRUTH IS THAT I MADE MANY MISTAKES. THE REST OF MY LIFE WON'T BE ENOUGH TO MAKE AMENDS.



HOW WONDERFULLY NOBLE, HOW ADMIRABLY VIRTUOUS OF YOU...

...BUT ALL SO UTTERLY POINTLESS. THE PAST IS THE PAST, THORGAL. ALL THAT MATTERS IS THE PRESENT... AND THE FUTURE.



MY PAST AND MY FUTURE ARE ONE, PRINCESS. I SHALL LEAVE TOMORROW AS PLANNED.

YOU MAY BE A HERO, BUT YOU'RE A STUPID, BLIND AND STRAIT-LACED ONE. OH WELL... EACH TO THEIR TORMENTS. EVEN SO, DO REMEMBER THAT WE'RE HAVING A FAREWELL FEAST IN YOUR HONOUR TONIGHT.





I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA, AARICIA.

I HAVE NO CHOICE, SOLAN. IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN THINK OF.



GO TO SLEEP NOW. WE LEAVE EARLY TOMORROW.



AREN'T YOU ASLEEP YET?

WAITING FOR YOU.



IS SHE THINKING OF THORGAL AGAIN?

OF COURSE. LIKE EVERY NIGHT. LIKE EVERY DAY.



HE'S LUCKY TO BE LOVED LIKE THAT. ME TOO, ONE DAY, I'D LIKE SOMEONE TO LOVE ME AS MUCH.



WELL, THORGAL...



THE GUEST OF HONOUR LEAVING THE PARTY BEFORE THE BANQUET IS OVER... MY SISTER IS FURIOUS!

SORRY, GALATHORN, BUT I FEEL OUT OF PLACE AMONG THE BARONS OF YOUR COURT.



I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT. THOSE DOGS ARE EACH MORE SYCOPHANTIC AND GRASPING THAN THE LAST, ALL READY TO BETRAY THEIR PRINCE TO GAIN A LITTLE MORE POWER AND PRESTIGE.



BREK ZARITH IS A VULNERABLE KINGDOM, THORGAL. AS MUCH BECAUSE OF ITS ENEMIES ON THE OUTSIDE AS THE ROT DEVOURING IT FROM THE INSIDE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN YOUR COMPANIONS WISELY, PRINCE GALATHORN.



A KING DOESN'T CHOOSE HIS VASSALS, THORGAL. THEY CHOOSE HIM AND ACCEPT HIM, UNTIL ONE OF THEM FEELS STRONG ENOUGH TO TRY AND BECOME KING HIMSELF.



THAT IS WHY I HAVE SUCH NEED OF YOU, MY FRIEND. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TRUST WITH MY EYES SHUT.

I'VE ALREADY ANSWERED THAT, GALATHORN. I COULD NO MORE HAVE A MASTER THAN I COULD BE ONE.



YOU COULD BRING YOUR FAMILY HERE. YOU WOULD WANT FOR NOTHING AND BE FREE OF WORRY.

BUT NOT FROM PLOTS AND SCHEMES. BESIDES, I DOUBT AARICIA'S MEMORIES OF BREK ZARITH ARE GOOD.*



I ADMIRE YOU, THORGAL, BUT I DO NOT ENVY YOU. IT'S HARD TRYING TO LIVE FREE IN THIS MERCILESS WORLD.

WHATEVER THE PRICE, ANYTHING WOULD BE BETTER THAN THINKING YOU REIGN OVER YOUR SUBJECTS - BUT FINDING YOURSELF THEIR SLAVE INSTEAD.



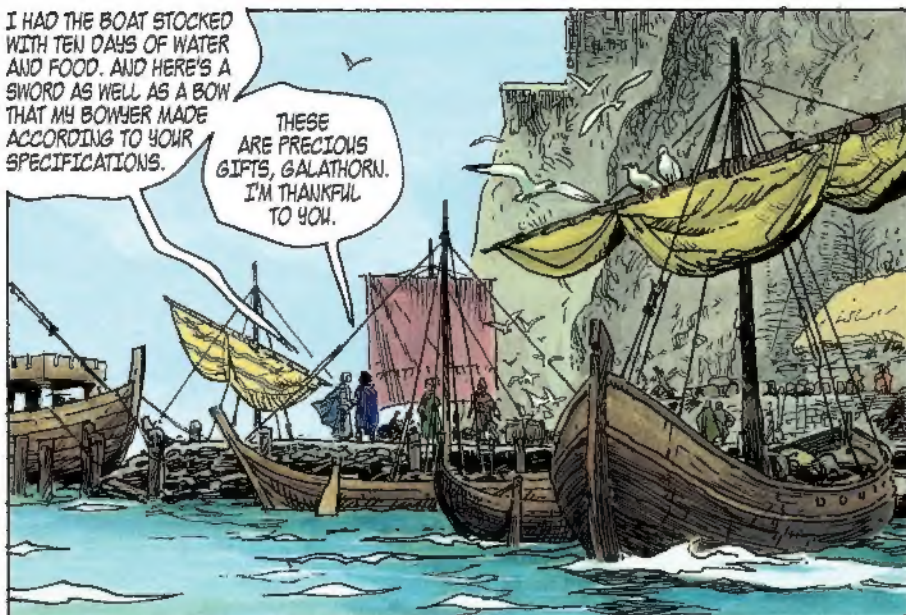
GO BACK TO YOUR PLEASURES, PRINCE GALATHORN. I MUST RETURN TO THE PATH I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT.

*SEE BEYOND THE SHADOWS



I HAD THE BOAT STOCKED WITH TEN DAYS OF WATER AND FOOD. AND HERE'S A SWORD AS WELL AS A BOW THAT MY BOWYER MADE ACCORDING TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS.

THESE ARE PRECIOUS GIFTS, GALATHORN. I'M THANKFUL TO YOU.



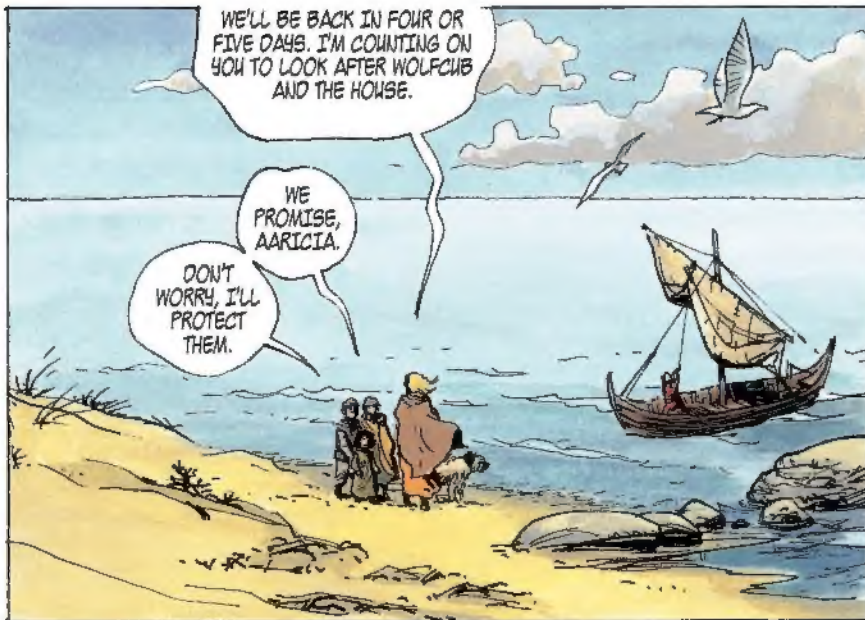
PLEASE ALSO ACCEPT THIS: 100 PIECES OF SILVER. WITH THEM YOU CAN PURCHASE WHAT YOU MAY NEED FOR YOUR ISLAND.

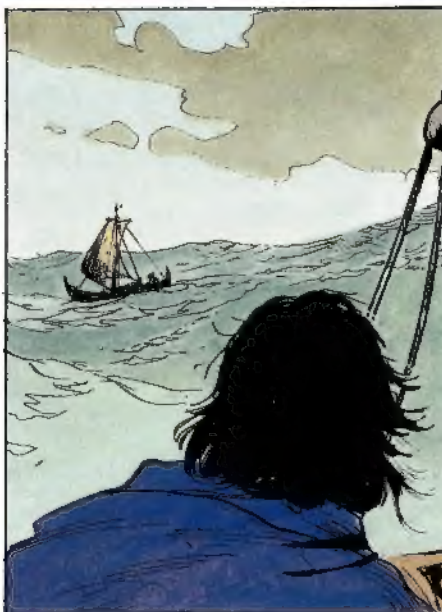
NO, I WILL NOT. KEEP THIS MONEY FOR A BETTER USE.

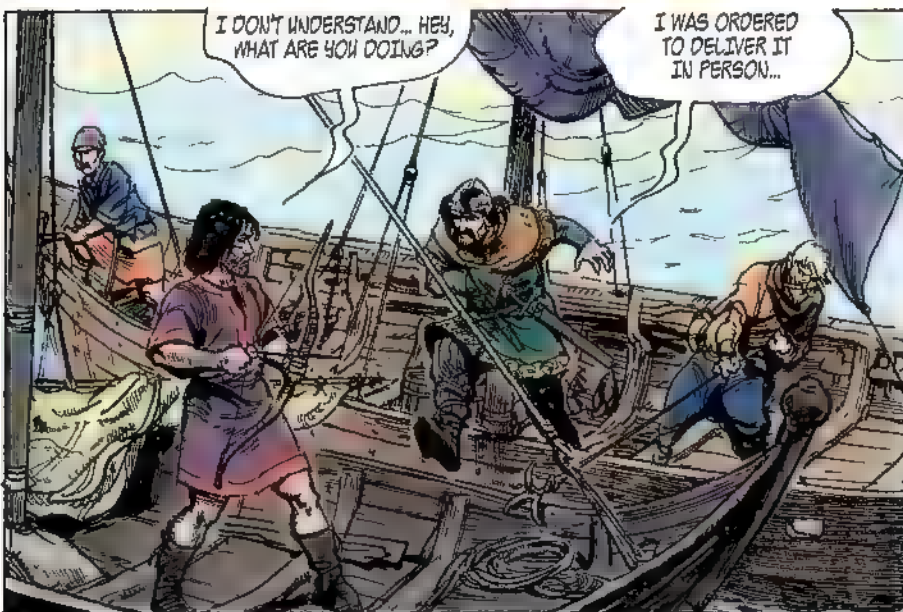
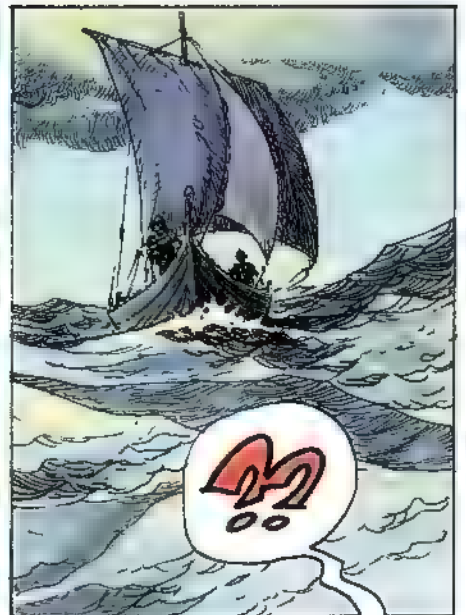
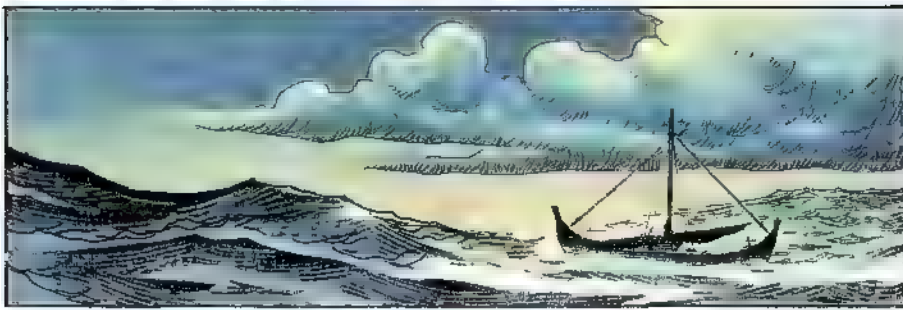


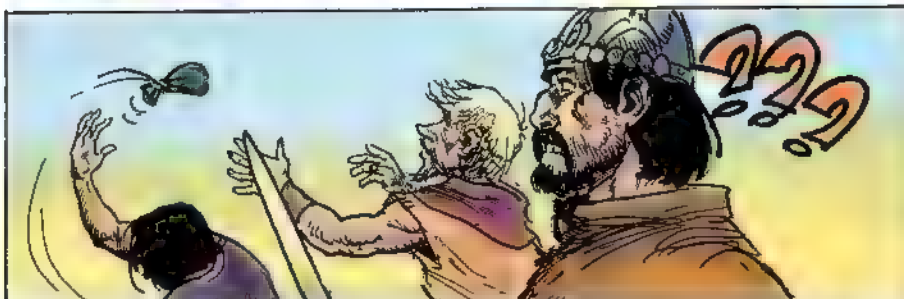
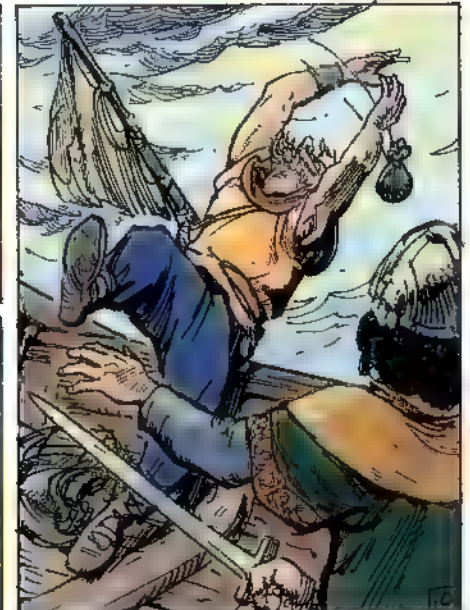
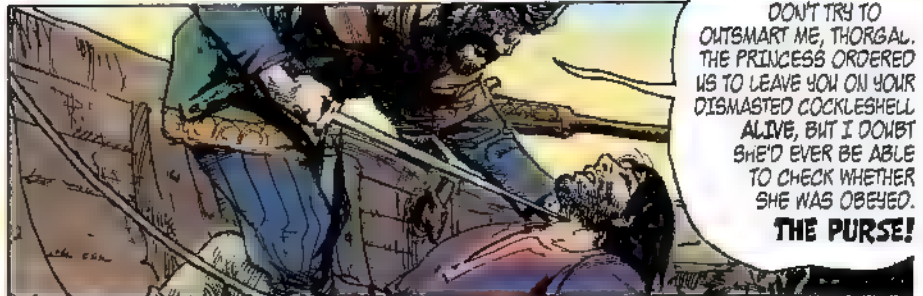
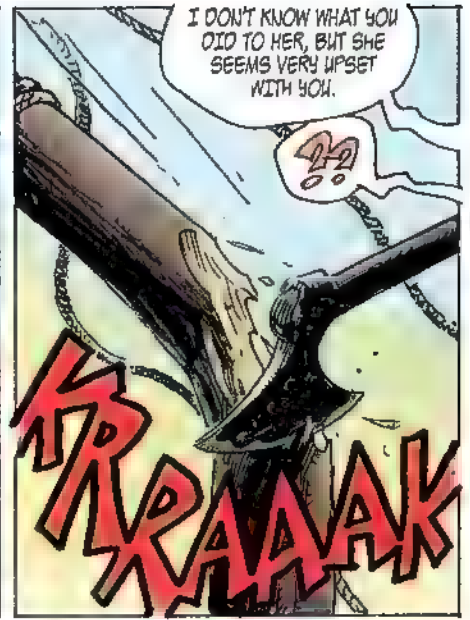
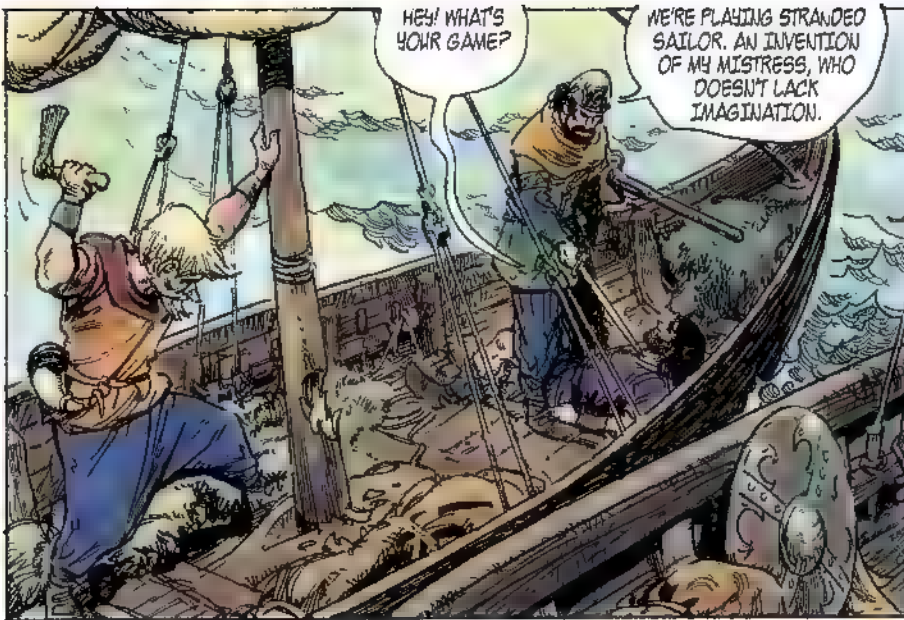
THIS IS THE BEST USE I COULD FIND FOR IT. I OWE YOU MY LIFE, AND YOU OWE ME YOUR RECOVERED MEMORIES. LIKE IT OR NOT, THORGAL, OUR LIVES ARE NOW BOUND TOGETHER.

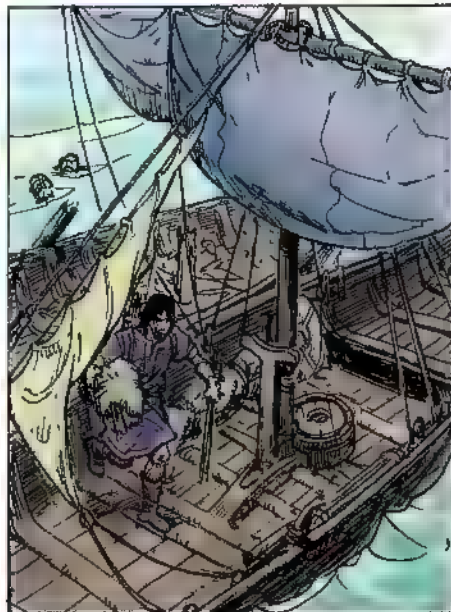
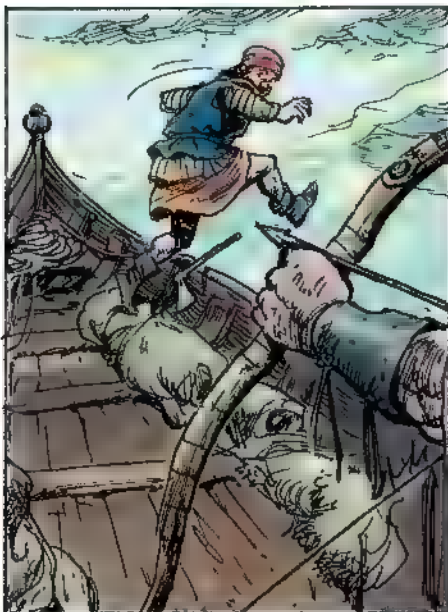


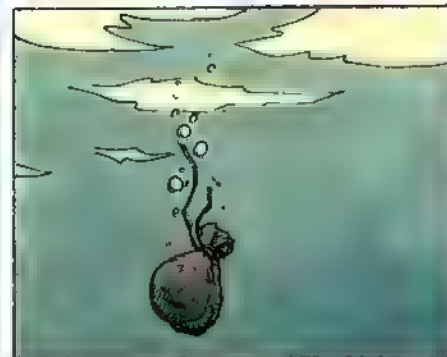
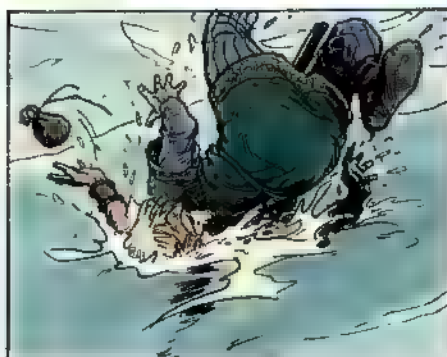
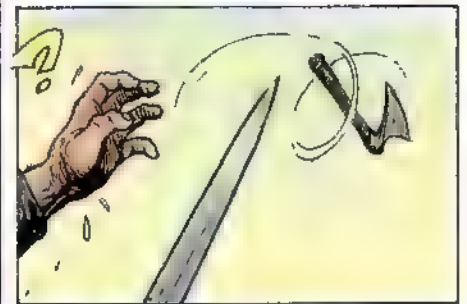
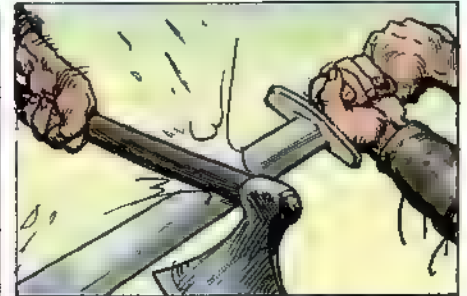














STAY HERE, JOLAN
I'LL BE BACK IN A FEW
HOURS.



I DON'T
LIKE THIS PLACE.
LET ME COME
WITH YOU.

NO, SWEETHEART. I'D PREFER
YOU TO WATCH THE BOAT -
JUST TO BE SAFE.



I STILL THINK
THIS IS A BAD
IDEA.

WHAT ARE
YOU TWO DOING
HERE!?

I CAME TO SEE
SARDAZ THE
FLAYED.



IS THAT
ALL? ... YOU'VE
GOT SOME
NERVE,
WOMAN!

WHAT DID YOU COME TO
SELL? YOURSELF? SARDAZ
HAS ENOUGH WENCHES
AS IT IS!



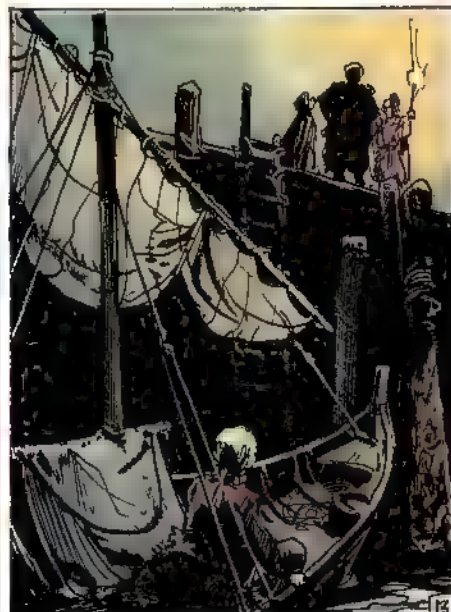
LEAVE IT,
LEAVE IT. A
LITTLE NOVELTY
IS ALWAYS
WELCOME.

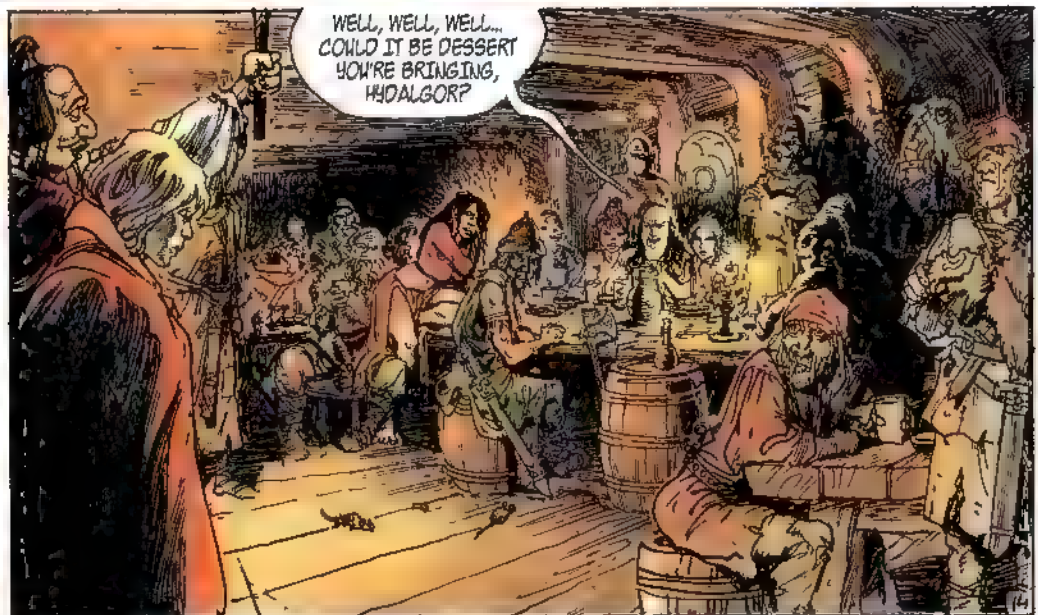
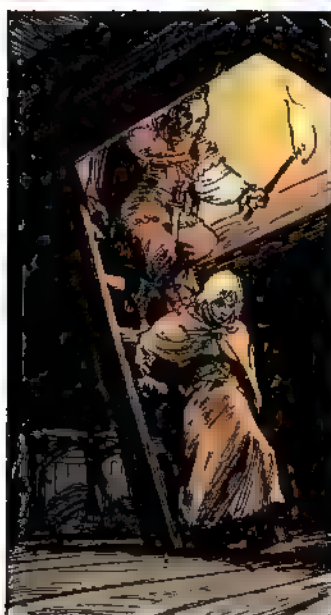
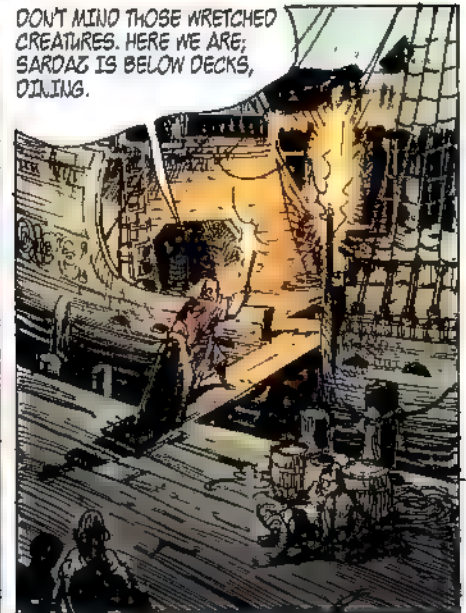
I'M HYDALGOR, SARDAZ'S FIRST
LIEUTENANT. MAY I KNOW THE
PURPOSE OF YOUR
VISIT, LOVELY
STRANGER?



VERY
WELL.
COME.

SARDAZ
WILL TELL YOU
HIMSELF IF HE
SO WISHES.





TO WHAT DO I OWE THE PLEASURE
OF THIS IMPROMPTU VISIT,
PRETTY STRANGER?



I HEARD THAT SARDAZ
THE PLAYED COULD MUSTER
SEVERAL HUNDRED
FEARLESS MEN.

THAT MIGHT BE
POSSIBLE, PROVIDED
IT'S WORTH IT.
WHY?



I CAME TO OFFER
YOU VAST RICHES -
YOURS FOR THE
TAKING.

BY FEURIR'S BLOODY FANGS,
VAST RICHES! SUCH AN
OFFER DESERVES A SEAT
BESIDE ME.



YOU!
CLEAR
OFF!

BUT...

ARE YOU DEAF
AS WELL AS BEING
UGLY AND STUPID?
BUGGER OFF!



BE SEATED, GRACEFUL STRANGER, AND DINE
WITH ME. VAST RICHES, YOU SAID... AND WHERE
MIGHT I FIND THAT FORTUNE YOU OFFER?



IN THE FORTRESS OF
SHAIGAN THE MERCILESS.



???



HOW DARE YOU,
MISERABLE WENCH!
I PERSONALLY CUT OUT
THE TONGUE OF THE LAST
SWINE WHO PRESUMED
TO SAY THAT NAME
BEFORE ME!



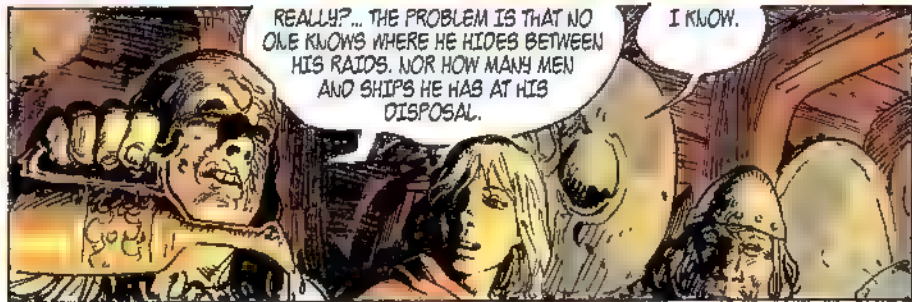
SINCE THAT ACCURSED SHAIGAN'S BEEN RAVAGING THE GREY SEAS, I'VE ALMOST NOTHING LEFT TO SINK MY TEETH INTO. ALL WE FIND ARE DESTROYED VILLAGES, LOOTED CASTLES, BURNED CROPS...



AS A RESULT, HALF MY MEN HAVE DESERTED AND THE OTHER HALF'S BELLIES ARE EMPTY. MAY THE PLAGUE ROT THAT DAMNED SHAIGAN'S GUTS!



AS IT HAPPENS, I'VE COME TO GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEAT HIM AND SEIZE ALL THE TREASURES HE'S HOARDED.



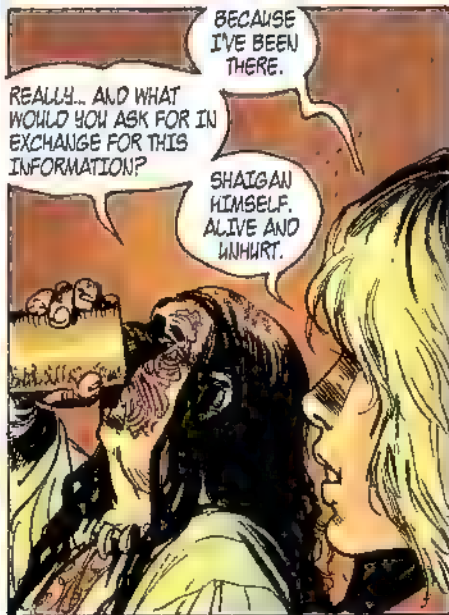
REALLY?... THE PROBLEM IS THAT NO ONE KNOWS WHERE HE HIDES BETWEEN HIS RAIDS. NOR HOW MANY MEN AND SHIPS HE HAS AT HIS DISPOSAL.

I KNOW.

I KNOW WHERE HIS LAIR IS, HOW TO REACH IT AND BREACH IT, AND I KNOW HOW MANY MEN AND SHIPS HE COMMANDS.



OH... AND HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT?



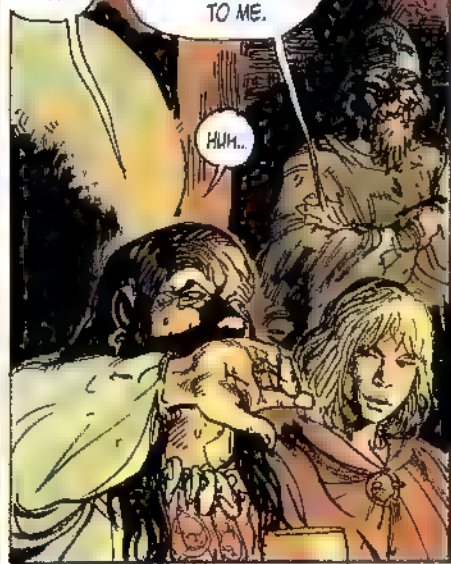
BECAUSE I'VE BEEN THERE.

REALLY... AND WHAT WOULD YOU ASK FOR IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS INFORMATION?

SHAIGAN HIMSELF. ALIVE AND UNHURT.

THAT'S ALL?

THAT'S ALL. BUT IT'S A LOT TO ME.



HUM...

I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT ALL THIS. WE'LL DISCUSS IT AGAIN TOMORROW... MORE IN DEPTH.



TOMORROW? BUT I...

YOUR STORY'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, MY BEAUTY. WHO'S TO SAY IT WASN'T SHAIGAN HIMSELF WHO SENT YOU TO LEAD ME INTO A TRAP, EH? WHO'S TO SAY?



BUT YOU WHAT? YOU SHOW UP AT MY DOOR OFFERING TO ATTACK SHAIGAN, AND YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE YOUR LITTLE SPEECH ON ACCOUNT OF YOUR PRETTY FACE AND LET YOU LEAVE?



BUT...

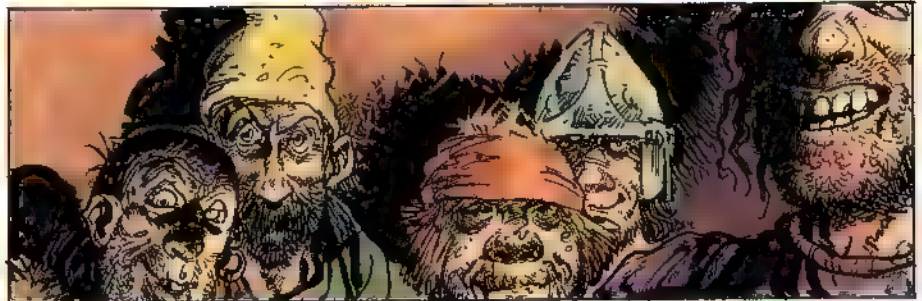
WHILE WE WAIT TO FIND OUT WHAT'S HIDING IN THAT
PRETTY NOGGIN OF YOURS, WE'LL SEE WHAT'S BELOW IT.
TAKE OFF THIS DRESS AND DANCE FOR US -
LET'S HAVE SOME FUN.



NEVER SAY NEVER, MY BEAUTY.
HERE, INGA, MAKE OUR GUEST
DANCE!

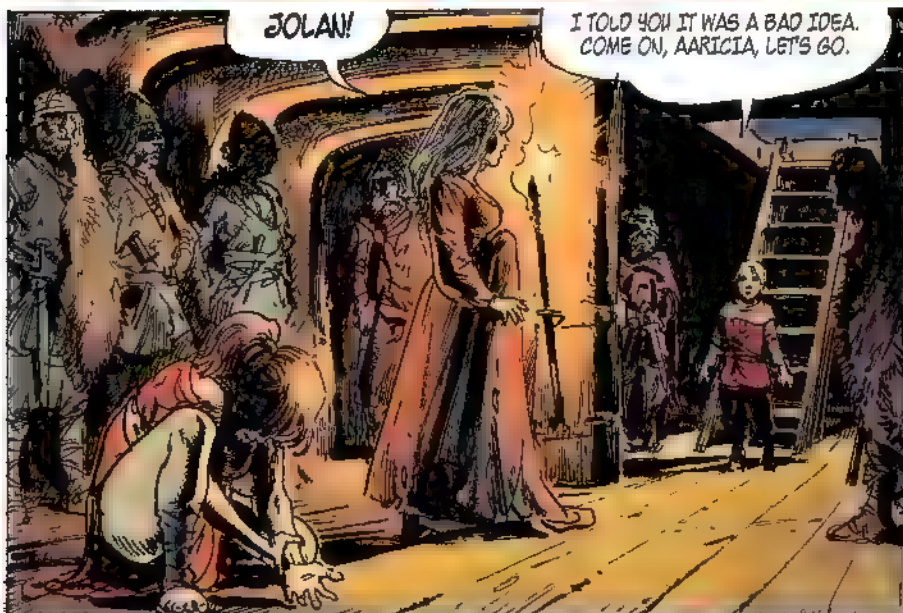


DON'T OBEY TOO QUICKLY, PET.
I'M EAGER TO HEAR THE CRACK
OF THE WHIP AGAINST
THAT LICE BUM...



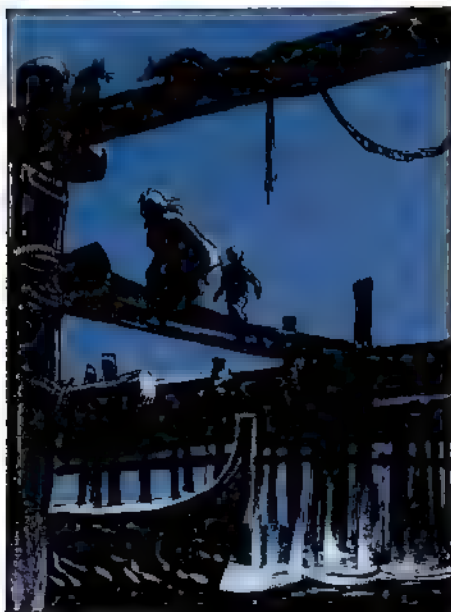
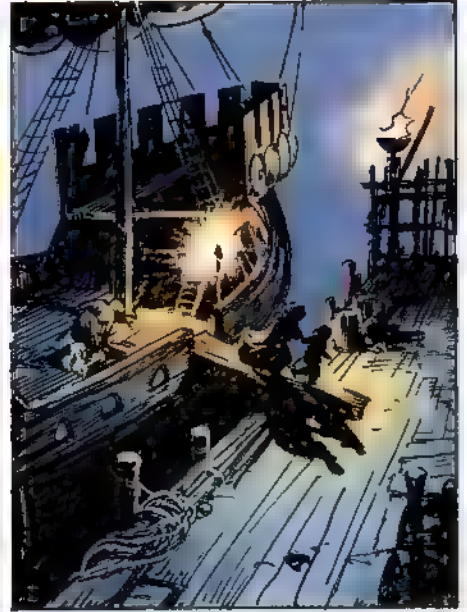
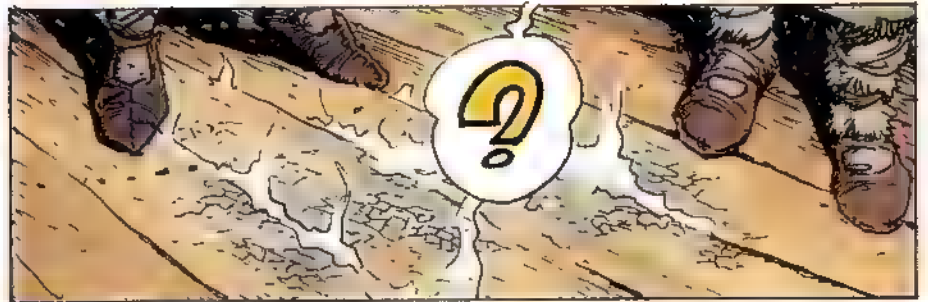
JOLAN!

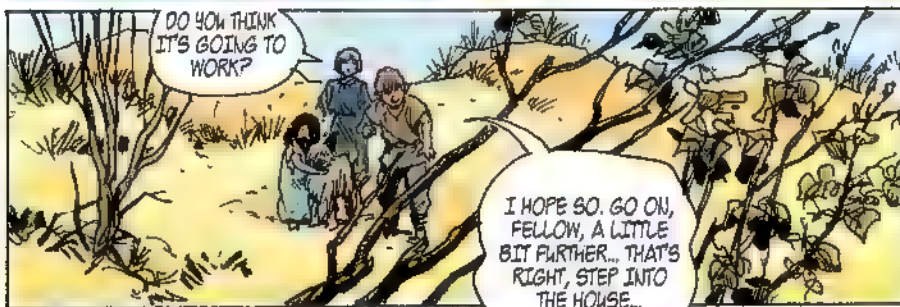
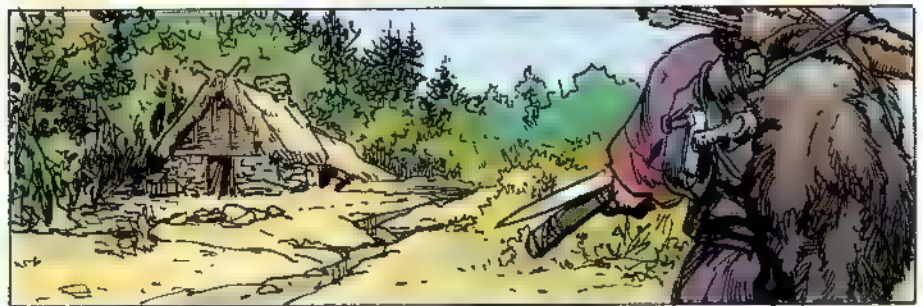
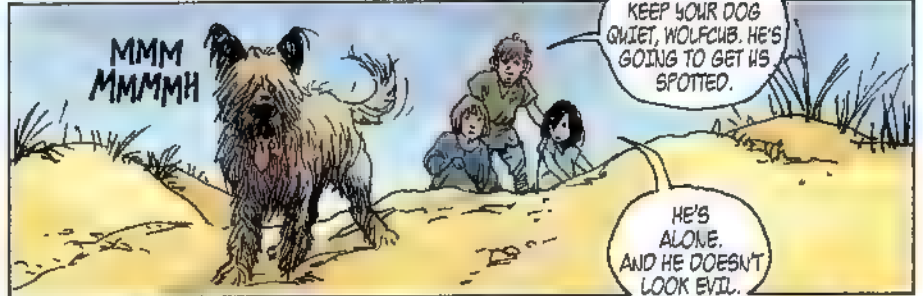
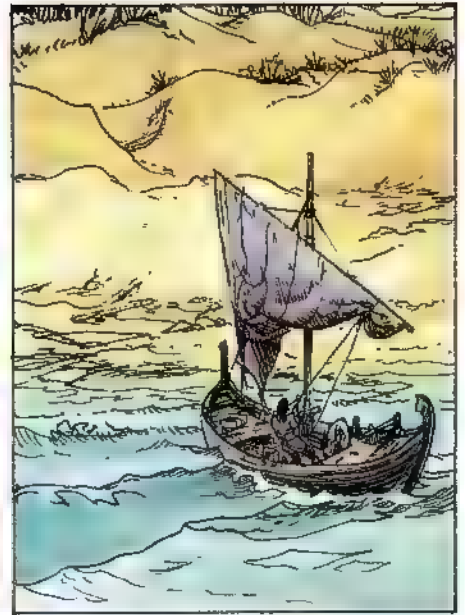
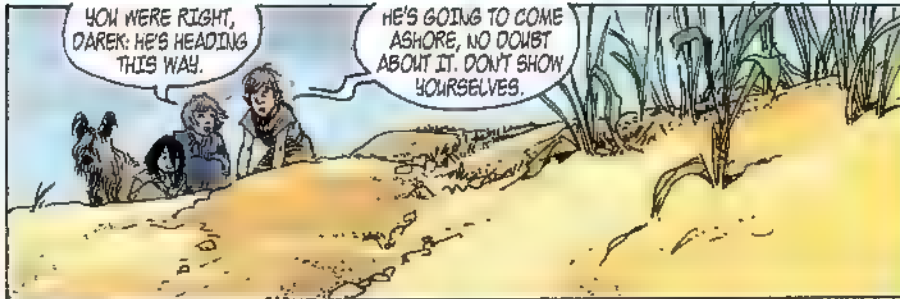
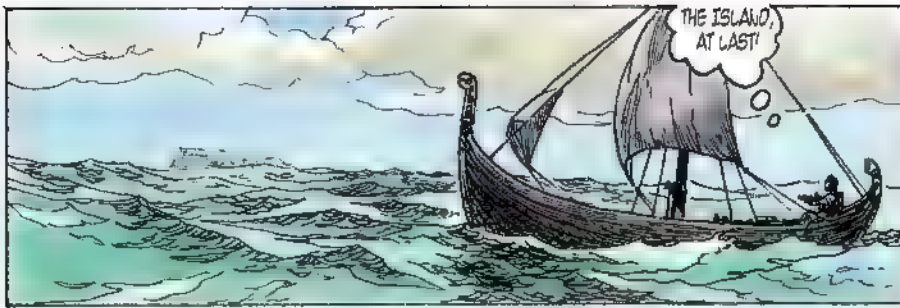
I TOLD YOU IT WAS A BAD IDEA.
COME ON, AARICIA, LET'S GO.

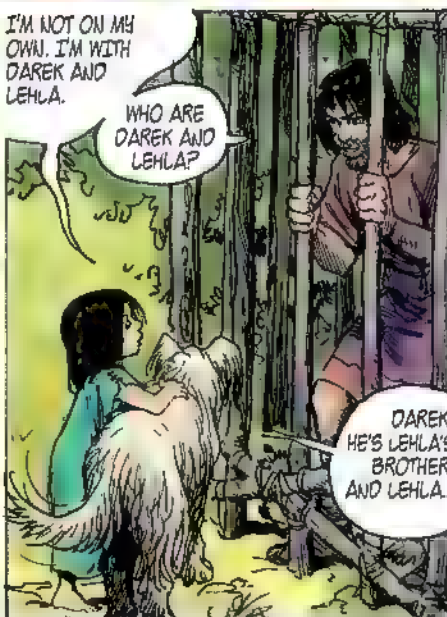
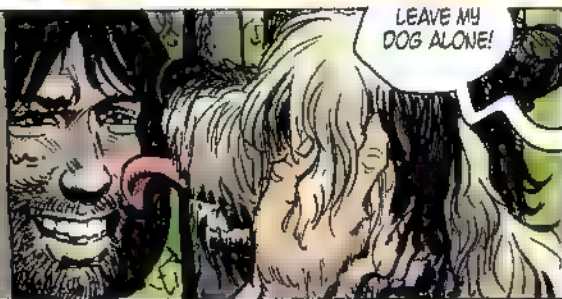
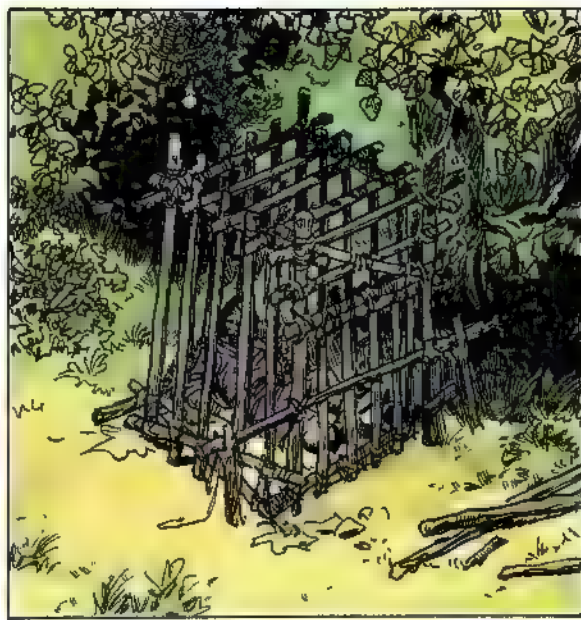


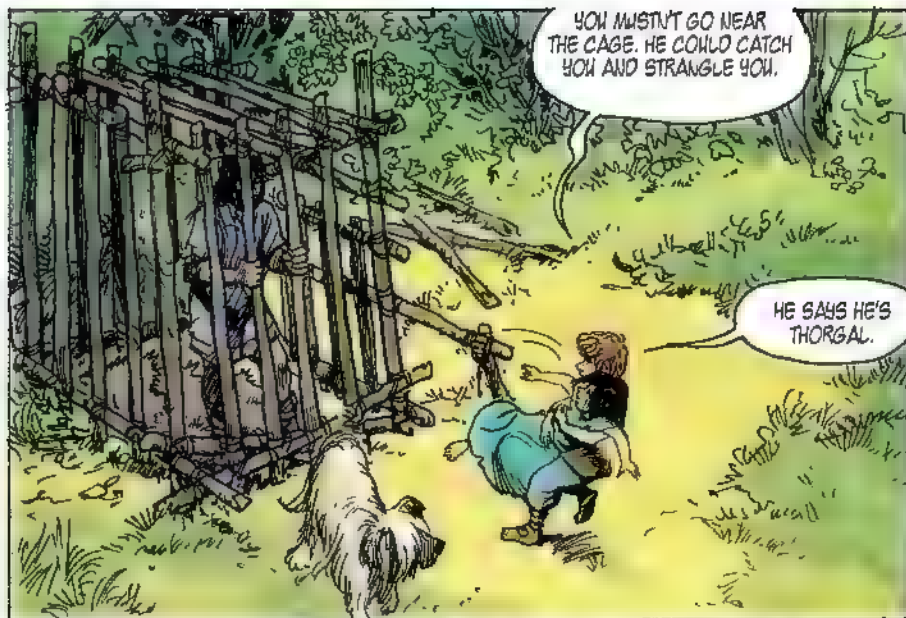
WHO ON MIDGARD IS THAT
LITTLE RUNT!? GRAB HIM SO
I CAN CUT OFF HIS EARS!!











YOU MUSTN'T GO NEAR THE CAGE. HE COULD CATCH YOU AND STRANGLE YOU.

HE SAYS HE'S THORGAL.

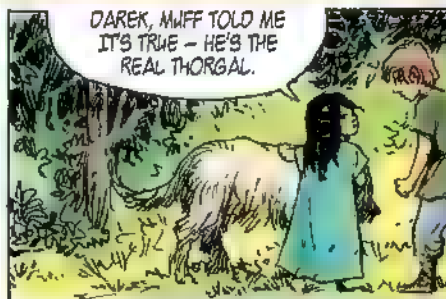


YOU'RE DAREK, I SUPPOSE. I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR ENDING UP IN THIS CAGE.

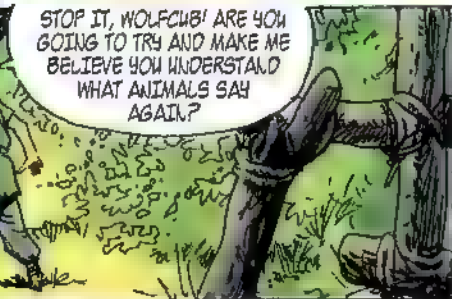
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M THE ONLY MAN ON THIS ISLAND AND I HAVE TO PROTECT THE GIRLS. YOU CAME TO THE WRONG ISLAND, MISTER.

GOOD, DAREK. YOU'RE A BRAVE BOY. BUT I'M NOT AN ENEMY. I'M THE FATHER OF WOLFCUB AND JOLAN.

YOU CAN'T BE. THORGAL LOST HIS MEMORY AND HE'S A LONG WAY AWAY. ACTUALLY, AARICIA LEFT TO TRY AND FIND A WAY TO FREE HIM.



DAREK, WUFF TOLD ME IT'S TRUE - HE'S THE REAL THORGAL.



STOP IT, WOLFCUB! ARE YOU GOING TO TRY AND MAKE ME BELIEVE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT ANIMALS SAY AGAIN?



BUT IT'S TRUE. I TALK TO ANIMALS AND THEY TALK TO ME. WHY DON'T YOU EVER BELIEVE ME?



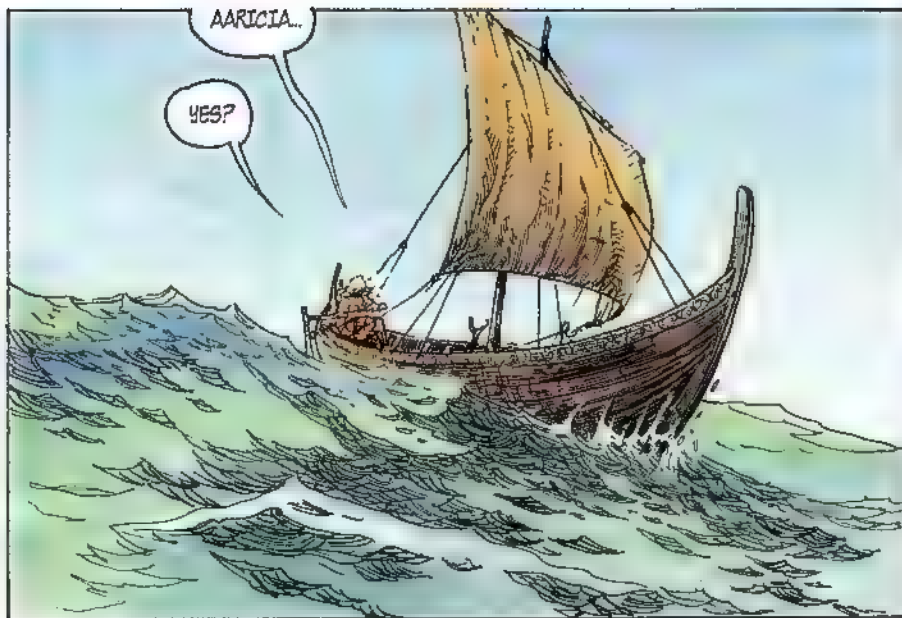
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. BUT THAT MAN MUST STAY IN THE CAGE - DO YOU HEAR ME? NOW GO AND HELP LEHLA MAKE DINNER.



MAYBE YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH, BUT YOU'LL STAY HERE UNTIL AARICIA AND JOLAN RETURN IN A DAY OR TWO. AND DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE - THE BARS ARE TOO STURDY.



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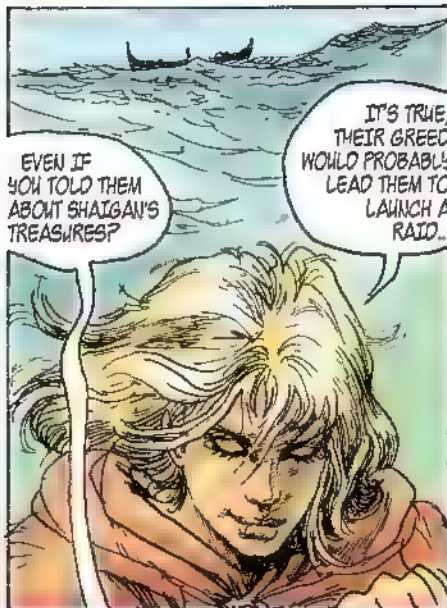


AARICIA...

YES?

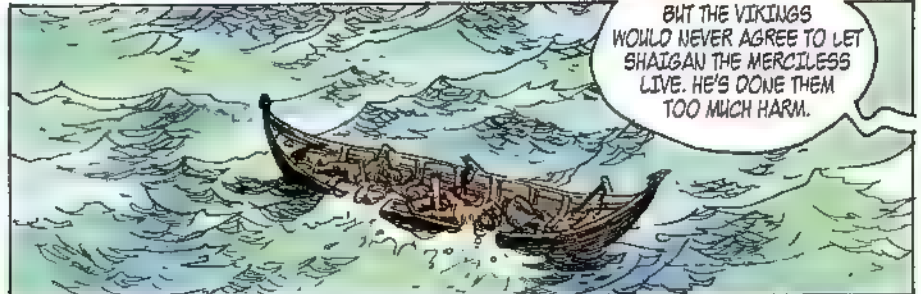
WHY DON'T WE GO TO THE VIKINGS? THEY'RE OUR PEOPLE AFTER ALL.

YOU'RE FORGETTING WE WERE EXILED, JOLAN.* THEY'D NEVER AGREE TO HELP US.



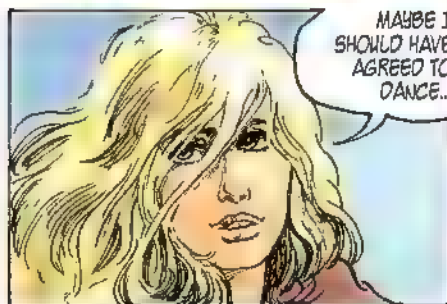
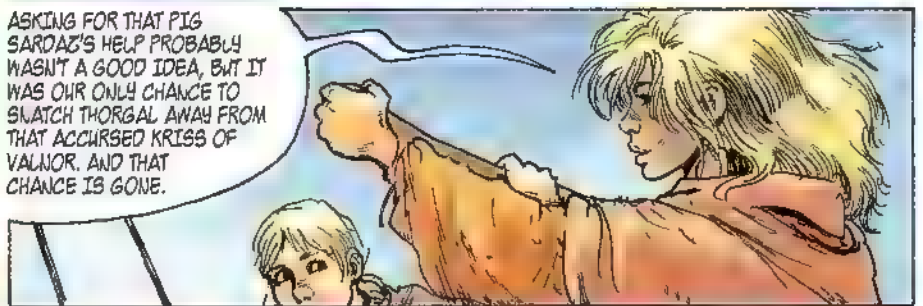
EVEN IF YOU TOLD THEM ABOUT SHAIGAN'S TREASURES?

IT'S TRUE, THEIR GREED WOULD PROBABLY LEAD THEM TO LAUNCH A RAID...

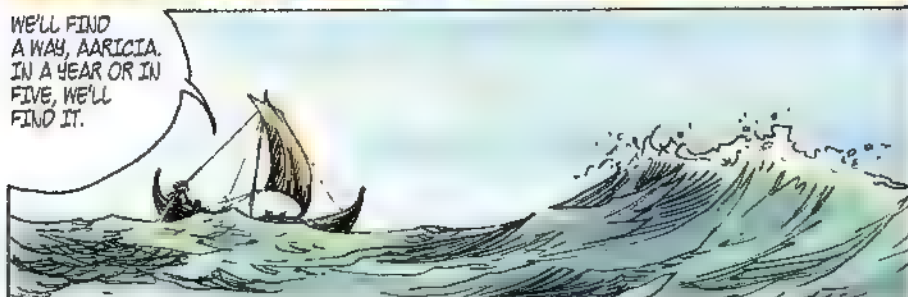
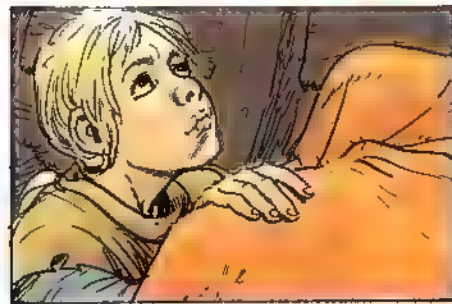


BUT THE VIKINGS WOULD NEVER AGREE TO LET SHAIGAN THE MERCILESS LIVE. HE'S DONE THEM TOO MUCH HARM.

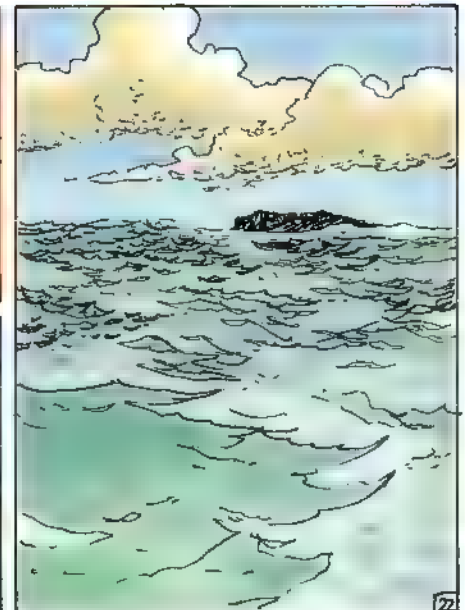
ASKING FOR THAT PIG SARDAZ'S HELP PROBABLY WASN'T A GOOD IDEA, BUT IT WAS OUR ONLY CHANCE TO SNATCH THORGAL AWAY FROM THAT ACCURSED KRIS OF VALNOR. AND THAT CHANCE IS GONE.



MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE AGREED TO DANCE...

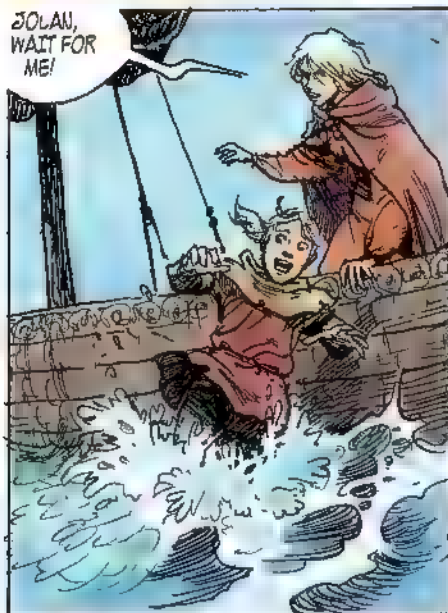
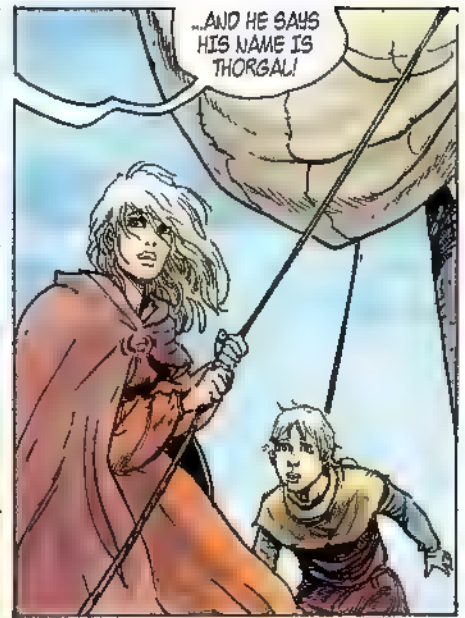
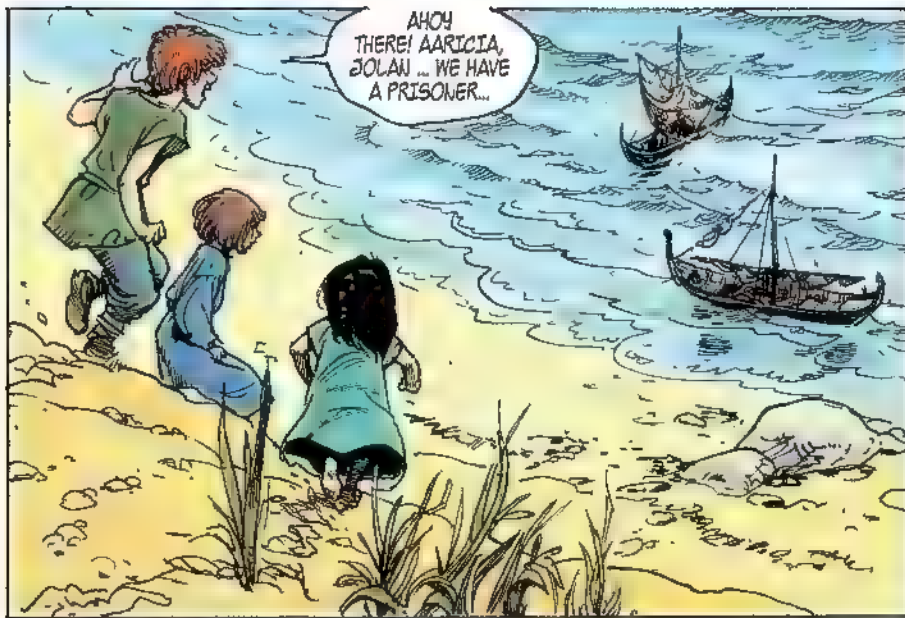


WE'LL FIND A WAY, AARICIA. IN A YEAR OR IN FIVE, WE'LL FIND IT.



*SEE THE BRAND OF THE EXILES

22





BUT AARICIA, IT IS THORGAL! IT IS HIM! DIDN'T YOU RECOGNISE HIM?

NO.



THAT MAN LOOKS LIKE THORGAL, IT'S TRUE, AND HE KNOWS OUR NAMES AND OUR STORY, BUT IT'S NOT HIM.



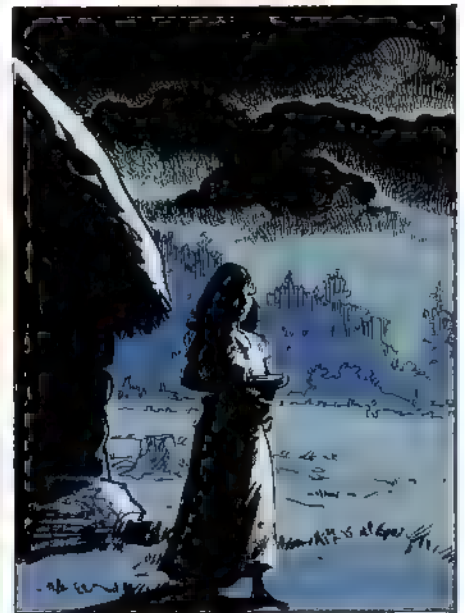
BUT...

YOU WERE TOO YOUNG WHEN HE LEFT, JOLAN. YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANY MORE.



WELL... WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH HIM THEN?

I DON'T KNOW YET. IN THE MEANTIME, FREEING HIM IS ABSOLUTELY OUT OF THE QUESTION. IS THAT UNDERSTOOD? NOW OFF TO BED, THE FOUR OF YOU!



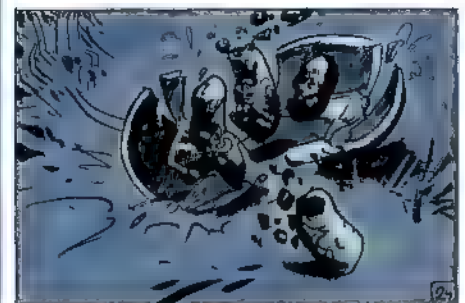
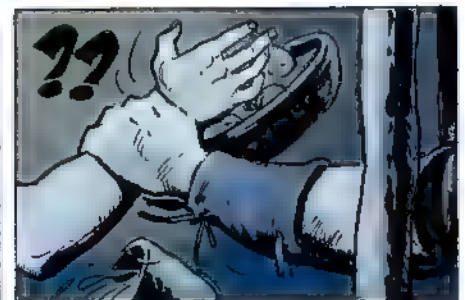
HERE, MAN, I BROUGHT YOU SOME SUPPER.

?



AARICIA, MY BELOVED, WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY DO YOU LEAVE ME IN HERE?

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO EAT, THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM. I'M NOT STAYING HERE ALL NIGHT.





BY THOR'S HAMMER, AARICIA, WHAT GAME IS THIS?

I ADVISE YOU TO LET GO OF ME, MAN...



...IF YOU WANT TO KEEP THE USE OF YOUR HAND.



VERY WELL. I SUPPOSE I'M ONLY GETTING WHAT I DESERVE. HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO KEEP ME IN THIS CAGE?

WE HAVEN'T DECIDED YET.



BY ALL THE GODS, AARICIA, LOOK AT ME! I AM THORGAL, YOUR HUSBAND, THE FATHER OF JOLAN AND WOLFCUB!

NO.



MY HUSBAND LEFT ME. HE WAS A SIMPLE, STRONG, GOOD MAN WHO LOVED AND BRAVELY DEFENDED HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, DIDN'T STOP HIM FROM ABANDONING US ONE DAY TO SEEK ADVENTURES IN DISTANT NEW LANDS.

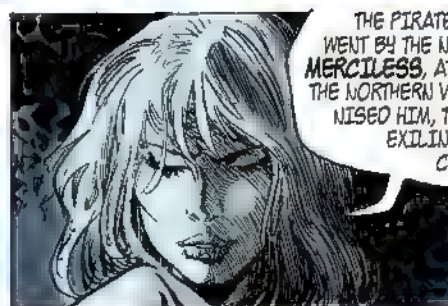


ALONG THE WAY HE MET ANOTHER WOMAN WHOM HE ALREADY KNEW AND WHO CONVINCED HIM - I DON'T WANT TO KNOW HOW - TO ALLY WITH HER AND BECOME A BLOOD-THIRSTY PIRATE.*



THE GODS HAD TAKEN MY MEMORY AND KRISS OF VALNOR MADE ME THINK THAT...

THAT'S WHAT THORGAL WOULD HAVE CLAIMED, YES. LOSING YOUR MEMORY IS SO CONVENIENT IN SUCH CASES. BUT LET ME GO ON...

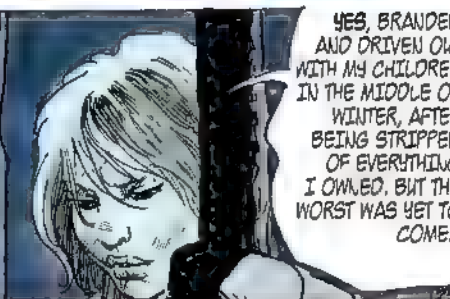


THE PIRATE IN QUESTION, WHO WENT BY THE NAME OF SHAIGAN THE MERCILESS, ATTACKED, AMONG OTHERS, THE NORTHERN VIKINGS. HAVING RECOGNISED HIM, THEY TOOK REVENGE BY EXILING HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN.**

WHAT!?



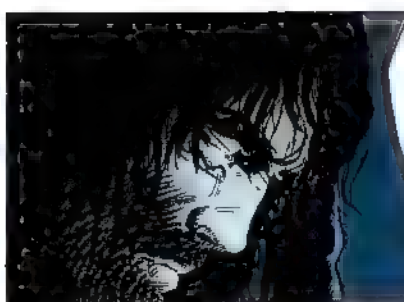
YOU... YOU WERE EXILED!?



YES, BRANDED AND DRIVEN OUT WITH MY CHILDREN IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER, AFTER BEING STRIPPED OF EVERYTHING I OWNED. BUT THE WORST WAS YET TO COME...

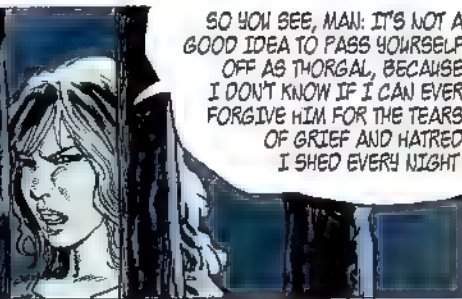
*SEE THE INVISIBLE FORTRESS **SEE THE BRAND OF THE EXILES

NOT LONG AFTER, THE EXILED WIFE OF THORGAL AND HER LITTLE GIRL WERE CAPTURED BY KRISS OF VALNOR, HER HUSBAND'S NEW COMPANION, AND TAKEN AS A SLAVE TO THE FORTRESS OF SHAIGAN THE MERCILESS.

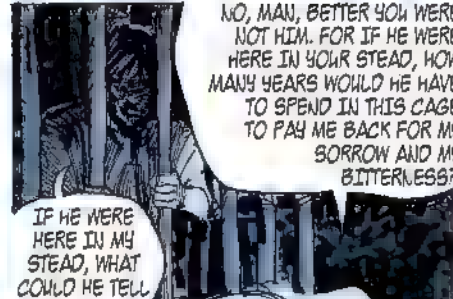


THERE, SHE SUFFERED THE WORST HUMILIATIONS, THE MOST UNBEARABLE OF ALL HAVING TO SERVE HER OWN HUSBAND WITHOUT HIM RECOGNISING HER OR EVEN SPARING HER A SINGLE GLANCE. HE HAD INDEED LOST HIS MEMORY.

BUT KRISS OF VALNOR, SHE WOULD LOOK AT ME, SAVOURING EVERY MOMENT OF HER PERVERSE PLEASURE AT MY DESPAIR. AND AT NIGHT, BEFORE RETURNING TO THE SLAVE QUARTERS, I FELT THE FURTHER PAIN OF SEEING THE MAN I LOVED JOIN THAT ACCURSED WOMAN IN THE BED THEY SHARED.



SO YOU SEE, MAN: IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA TO PASS YOURSELF OFF AS THORGAL, BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN EVER FORGIVE HIM FOR THE TEARS OF GRIEF AND HATRED I SHED EVERY NIGHT

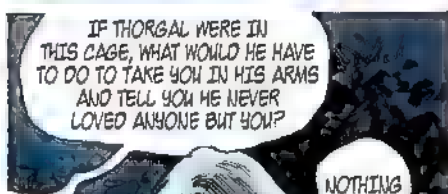
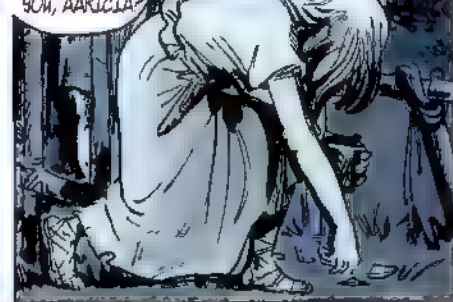


NO, MAN, BETTER YOU WERE NOT HIM. FOR IF HE WERE HERE IN YOUR STEAD, HOW MANY YEARS WOULD HE HAVE TO SPEND IN THIS CAGE TO PAY ME BACK FOR MY SORROW AND MY BITTERNESS?

IF HE WERE HERE IN MY STEAD, WHAT COULD HE TELL YOU, AARICIA?



I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN EVER FORGET THE HORRIBLE IMAGE OF THAT WOMAN AND MY HUSBAND EMBRACING IN THEIR BED.



IF THORGAL WERE IN THIS CAGE, WHAT WOULD HE HAVE TO DO TO TAKE YOU IN HIS ARMS AND TELL YOU HE NEVER LOVED ANYONE BUT YOU?

NOTHING

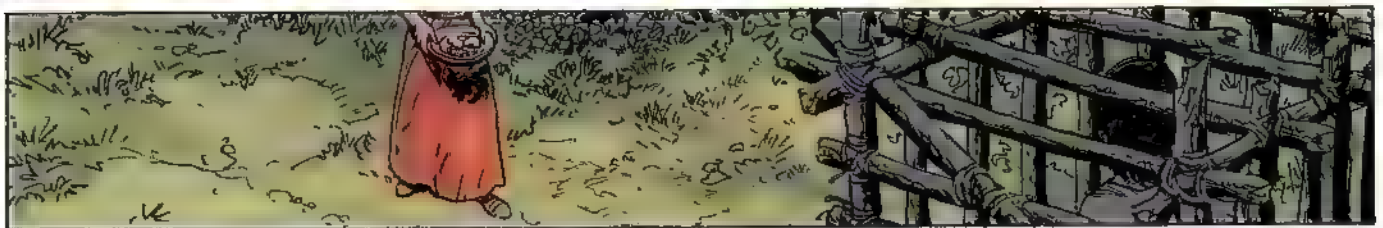
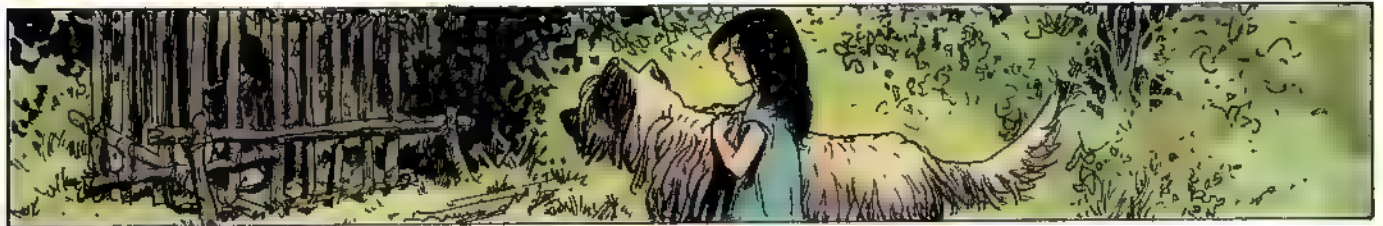
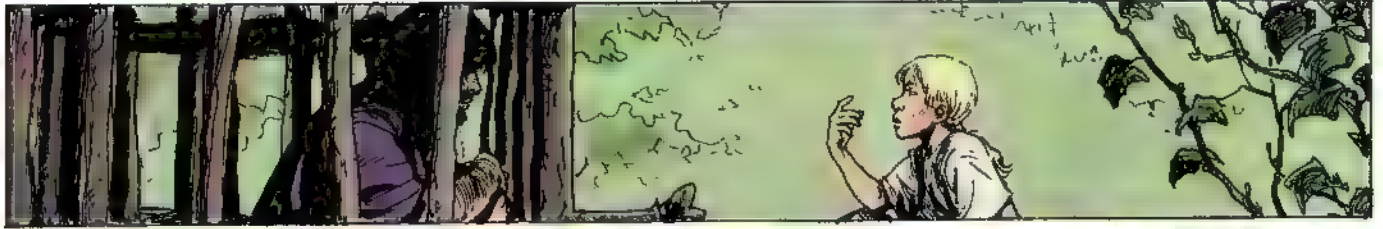


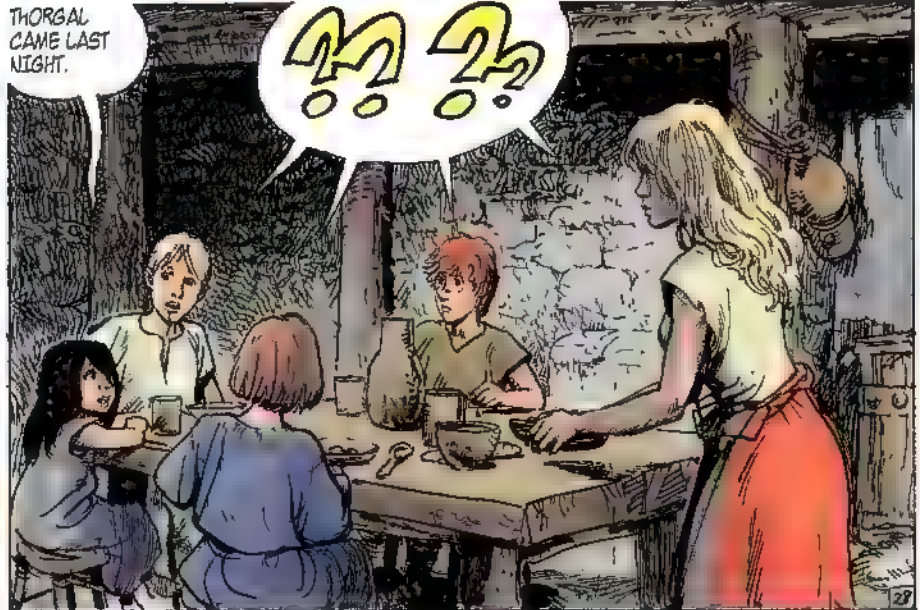
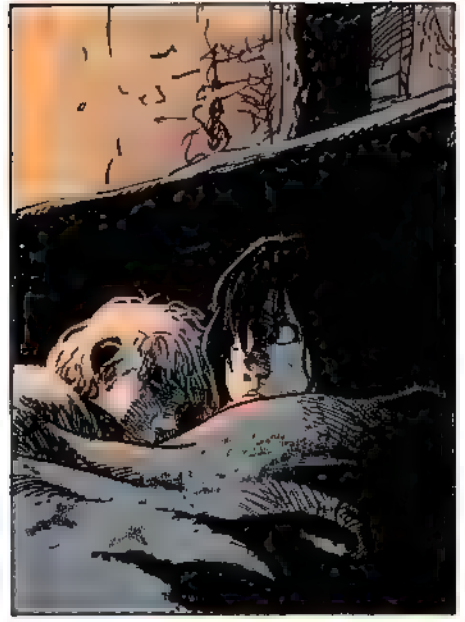
HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO SAY OR DO ANYTHING...

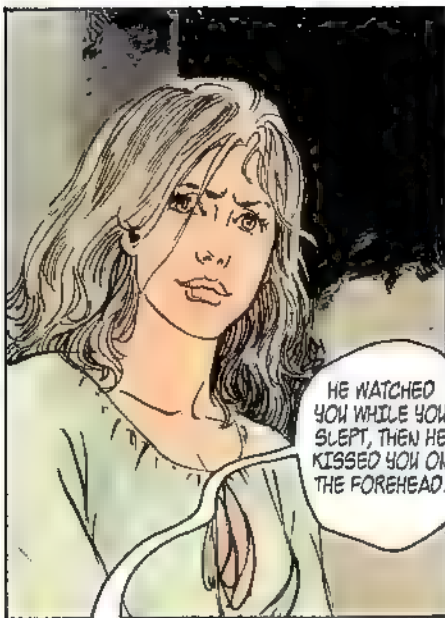


HE WOULD SIMPLY HAVE TO COME BACK.





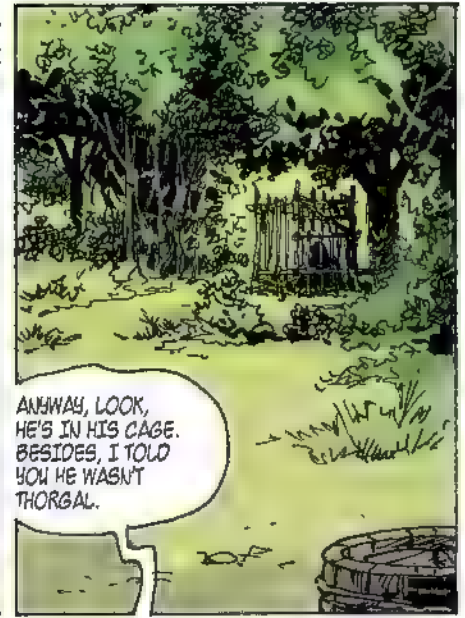




HE WATCHED YOU WHILE YOU SLEPT, THEN HE KISSED YOU ON THE FOREHEAD.



IT WAS A DREAM, SWEETHEART...

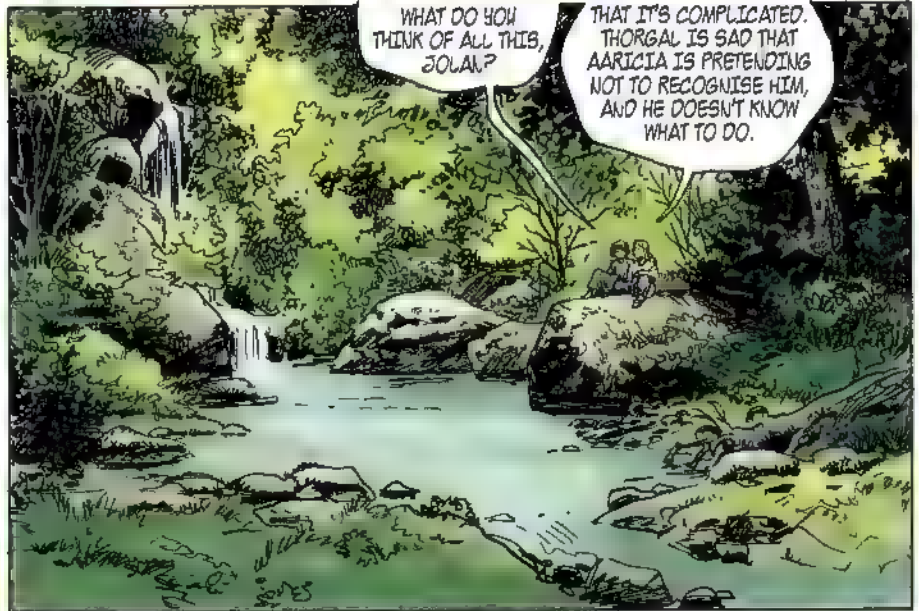


ANYWAY, LOOK, HE'S IN HIS CAGE. BESIDES, I TOLD YOU HE WASN'T THORGAL.



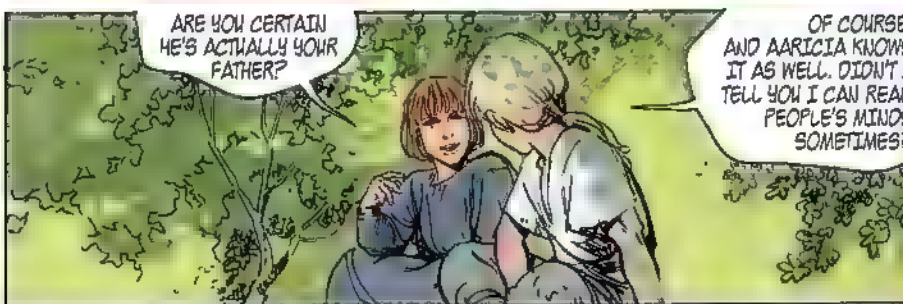
IT WASN'T A DREAM, AND IT REALLY IS THORGAL. MUFF TOLD ME. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MUFF?

WOOF WOOF



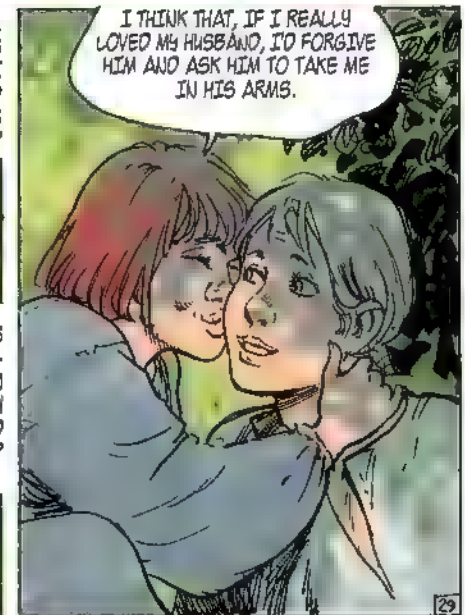
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ALL THIS, JOLAN?

THAT IT'S COMPLICATED. THORGAL IS SAD THAT AARICIA IS PRETENDING NOT TO RECOGNISE HIM, AND HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

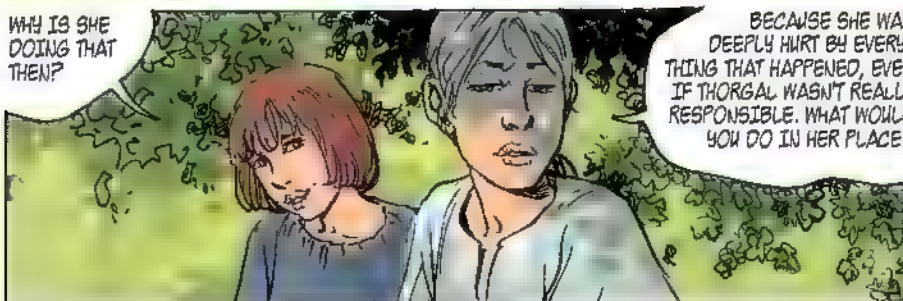


ARE YOU CERTAIN HE'S ACTUALLY YOUR FATHER?

OF COURSE. AND AARICIA KNOWS IT AS WELL. DIDN'T I TELL YOU I CAN READ PEOPLE'S MINDS SOMETIMES?

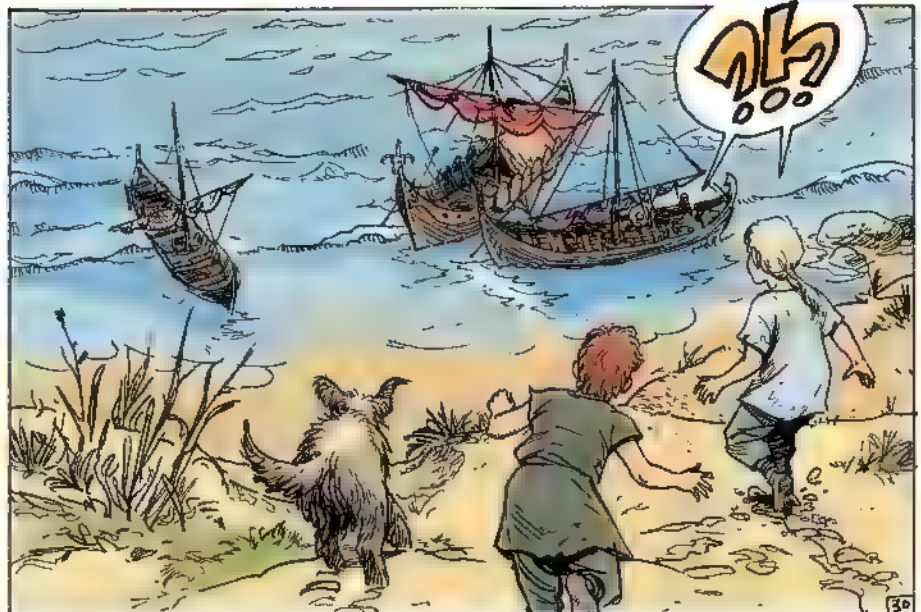
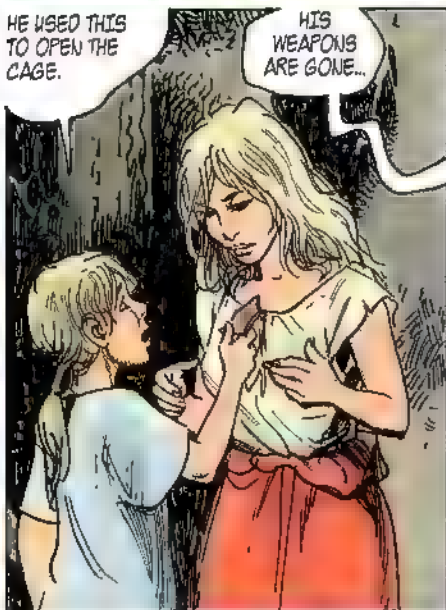


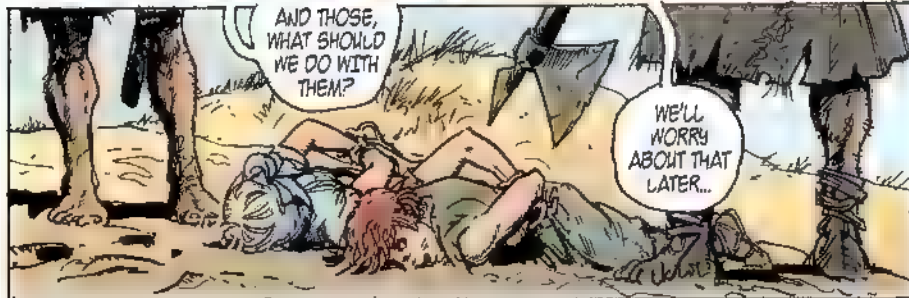
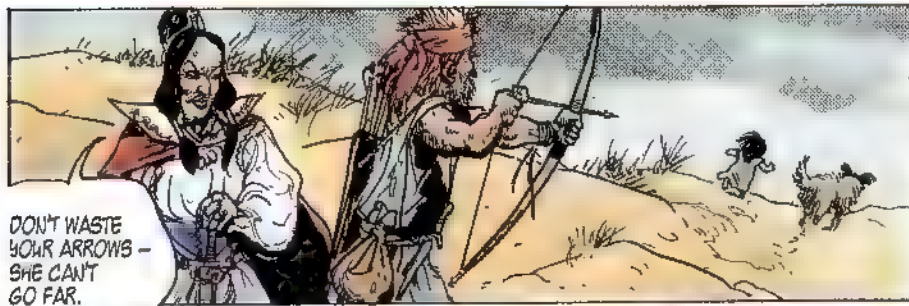
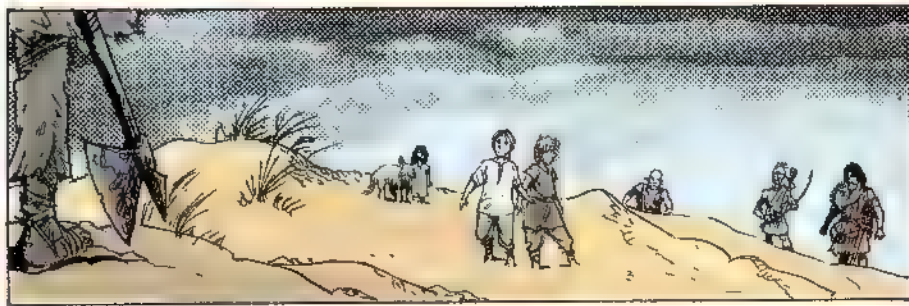
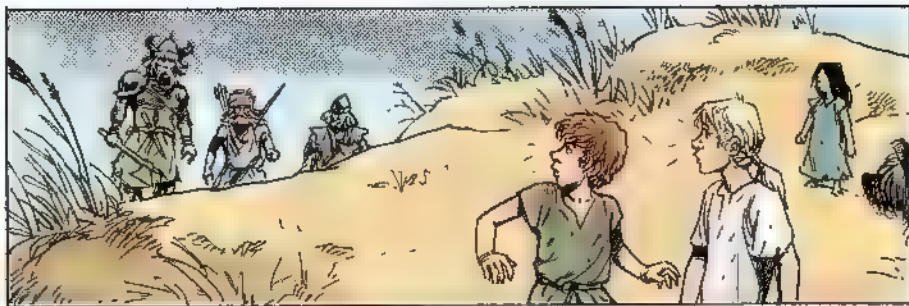
I THINK THAT, IF I REALLY LOVED MY HUSBAND, I'D FORGIVE HIM AND ASK HIM TO TAKE ME IN HIS ARMS.

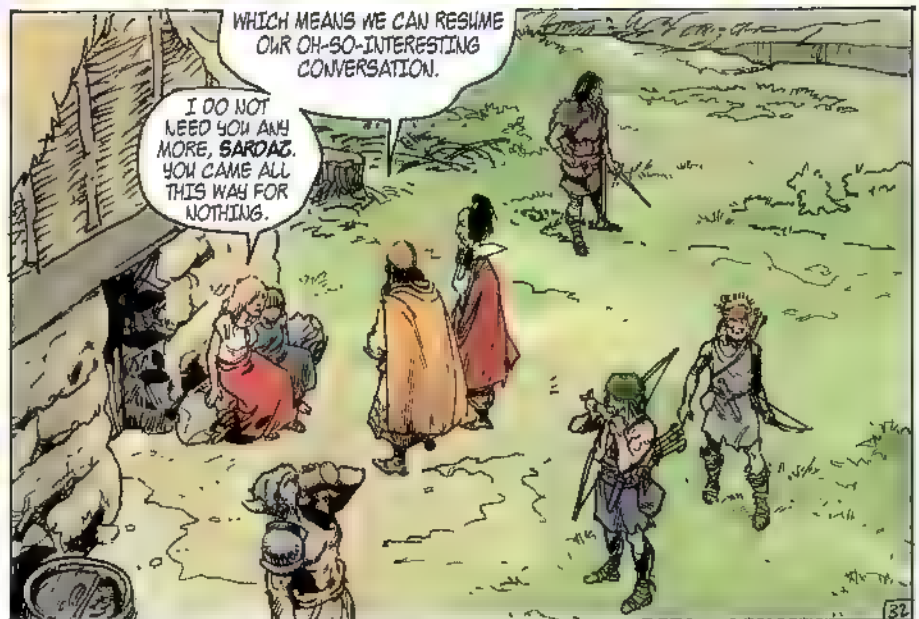
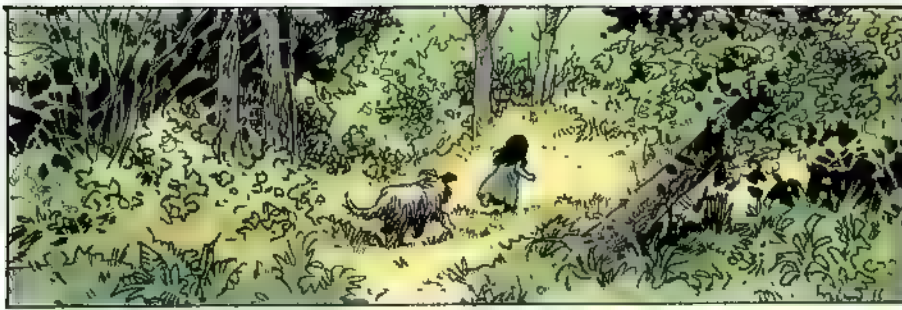


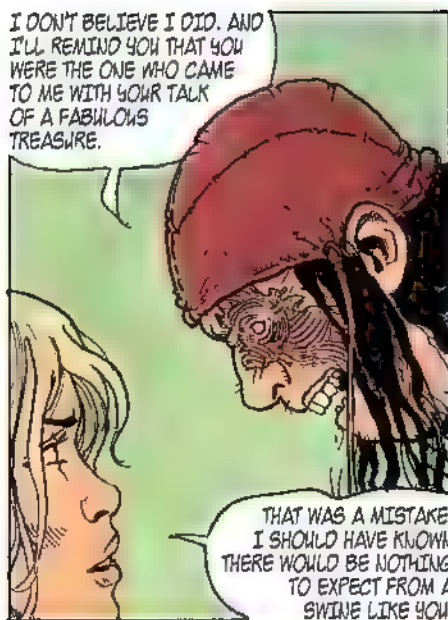
WHY IS SHE DOING THAT THEN?

BECAUSE SHE WAS DEEPLY HURT BY EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED, EVEN IF THORGAL WASN'T REALLY RESPONSIBLE. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN HER PLACE?









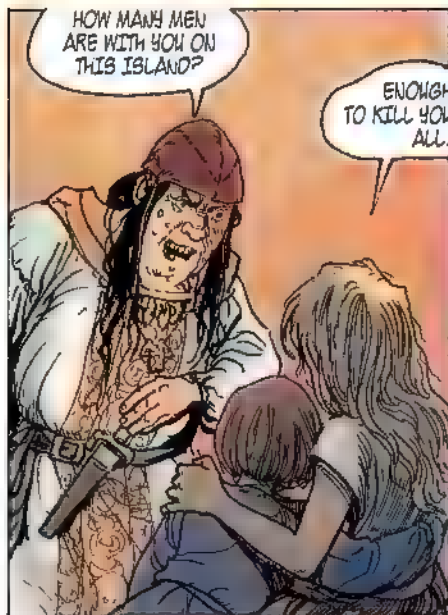


WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, HYDALGOR? I THOUGHT THERE WERE ONLY A WOMAN AND SOME CHILDREN HERE

THAT'S WHAT I'D BEEN TOLD, LORD SARDAZ. I... I MUST HAVE BEEN MISINFORMED...

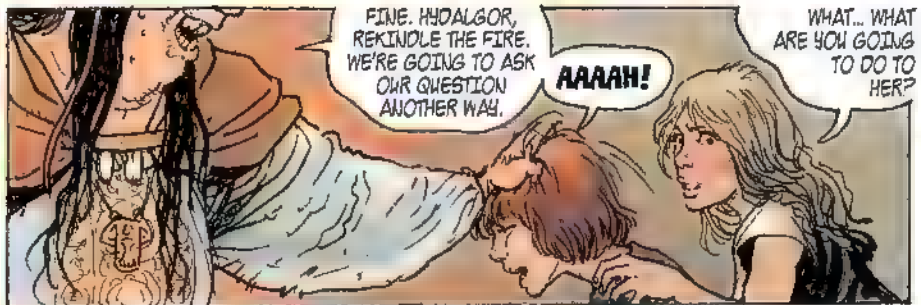


I SHOULD SLICE OFF YOUR NOSE TO TEACH YOU TO CHECK YOUR INFORMATION. I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO GET ACCURATE ANSWERS.



HOW MANY MEN ARE WITH YOU ON THIS ISLAND?

ENOUGH TO KILL YOU ALL.



FINE. HYDALGOR, REKINDLE THE FIRE. WE'RE GOING TO ASK OUR QUESTION ANOTHER WAY.

AAAAH!

WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO HER?



I'M SURE THE SMELL OF THIS BRAT'S SCORCHED FEET WILL TEACH YOU TO ANSWER PROPERLY

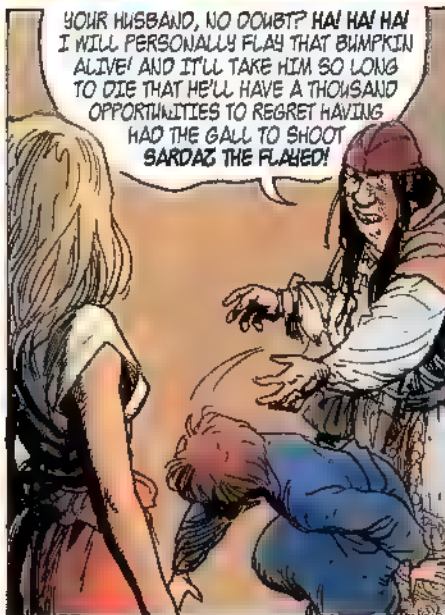
NO!... NO!...

STOP!



HE'S ALONE. BUT YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HIM. YOU SHOULD LEAVE THE ISLAND WHILE YOU STILL CAN!

?



YOUR HUSBAND, NO DOUBT? HAI HAI HAI I WILL PERSONALLY FLAY THAT BUMPKIN ALIVE! AND I'LL TAKE HIM SO LONG TO DIE THAT HE'LL HAVE A THOUSAND OPPORTUNITIES TO REGRET HAVING HAD THE GALL TO SHOOT SARDAZ THE FLAYED!



YOU, GO AND TELL OUR MEN THAT I WANT HIM CAUGHT ALIVE. O'YOU UNDERSTAND? **ALIVE!**



LOOK OUT!...



DON'T SHOOT, IT'S ME
HAVE YOU FOUND
ANYTHING?



NOTHING. WITH
THIS BLASTED RAIN,
WE COULDN'T EVEN
SEE A SQUAD
OF BOAR

THE MAN'S ALONE. A PEASANT
WHO SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO
FLUSH OUT. SARDAZ WANTS
HIM ALIVE.



EASY TO SAY HE COULD
BE HIDING ANYWHERE
ON THIS ISLAND.



LET'S SPLIT UP.
WE'LL COVER MORE
GROUND YOU TWO
THAT WAY, AND YOU
TWO WITH ME.

LET'S WAIT FOR THE
RAIN TO STOP. WE'LL
FIND HIM MORE
EASILY.



YOU KNOW SARDAZ. IF WE COME
BACK WITHOUT OUR QUARRY,
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MIGHT
END UP PLAYED.

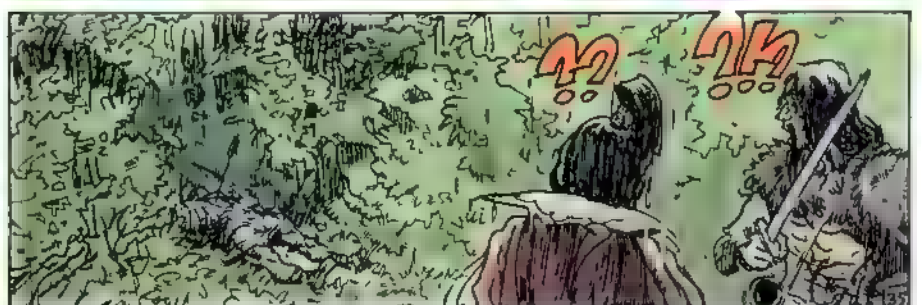


WE SHOULD HAVE KEPT
THE DOG. WE COULD
HAVE TRACKED HIM
MORE EASY...

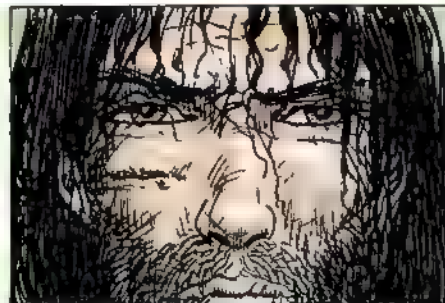
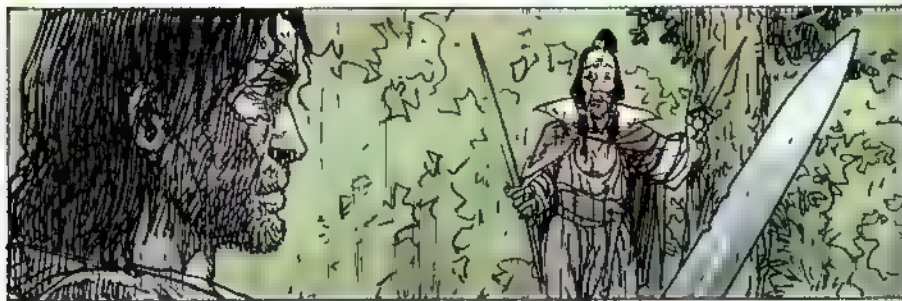


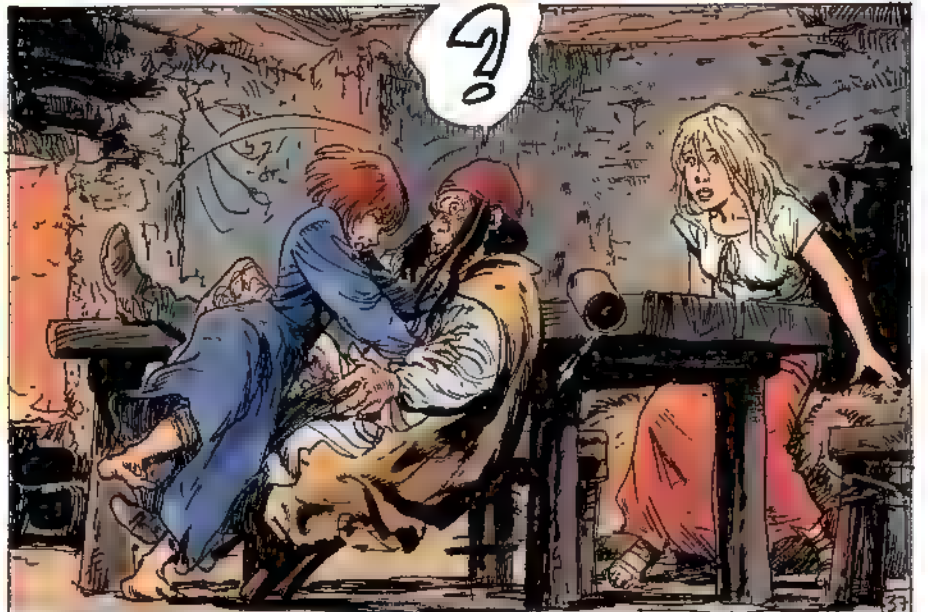
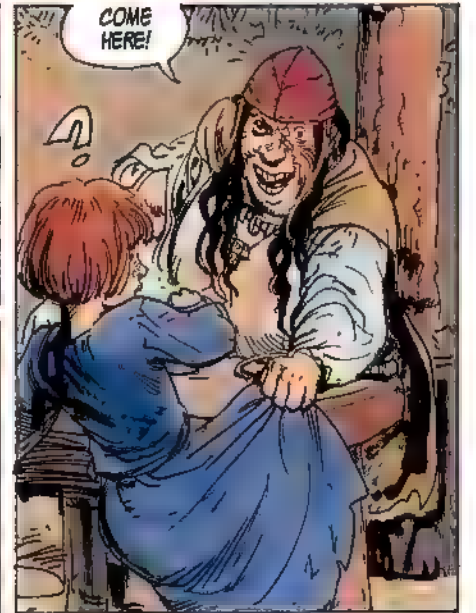
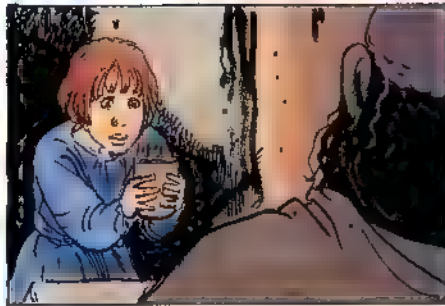
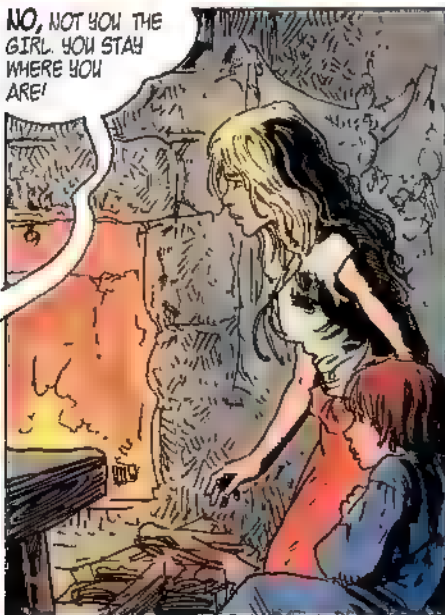
THUGG

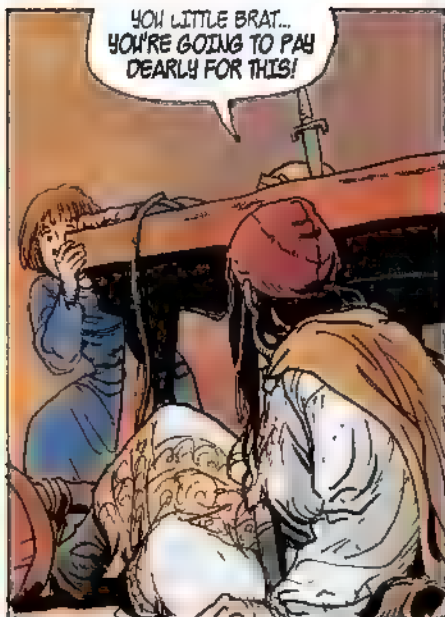
AARGH...



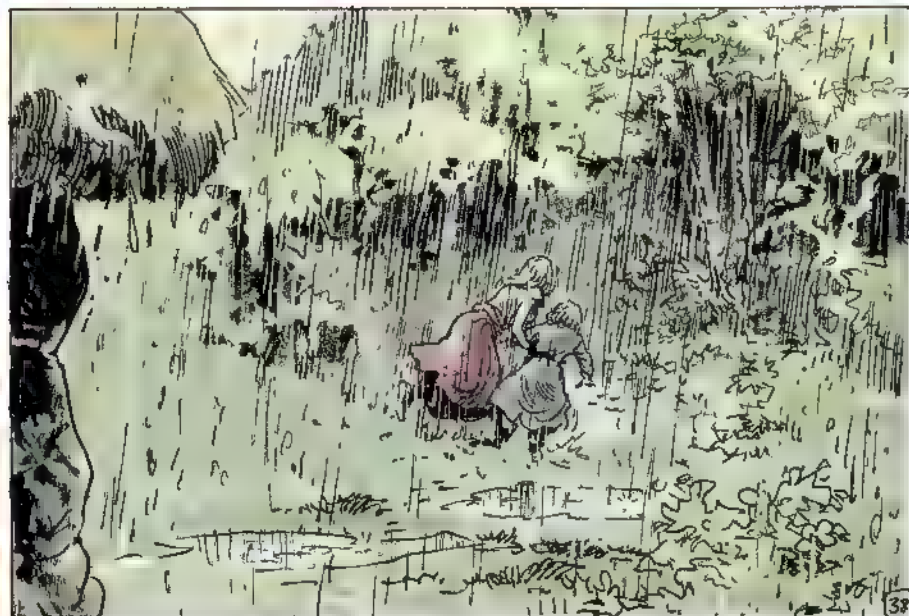
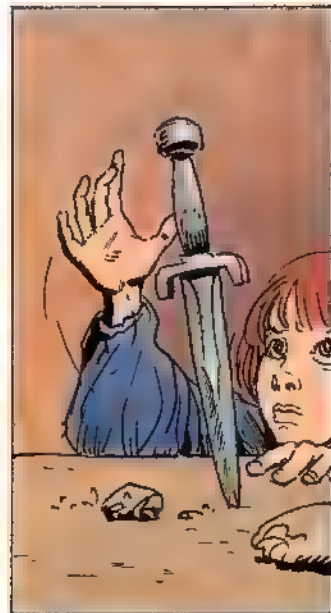
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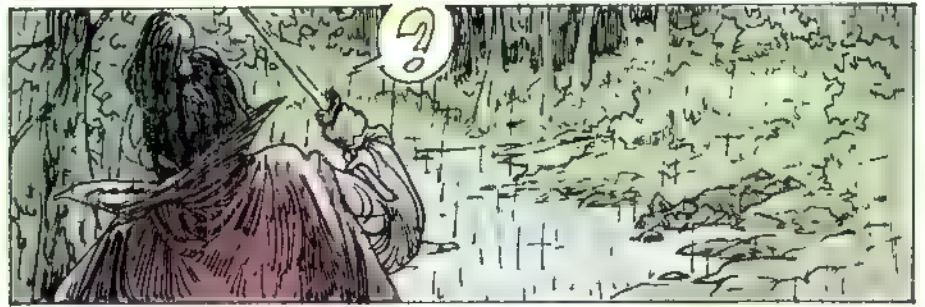
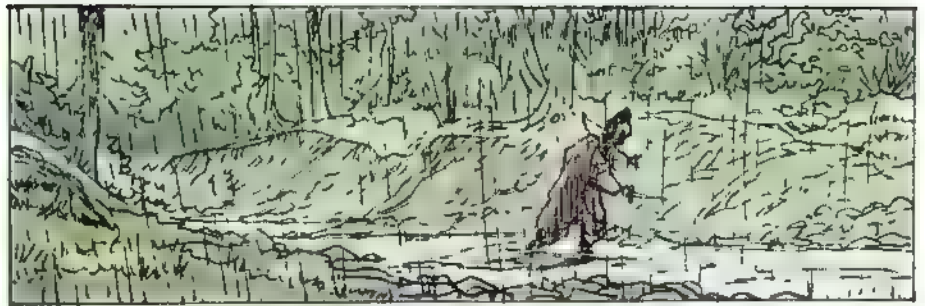






ACCURSED WENCHES!
WHEN I'M DONE WITH
THE TWO OF YOU, EVEN
A RABID DOG WOULDN'T
TOUCH YOU...



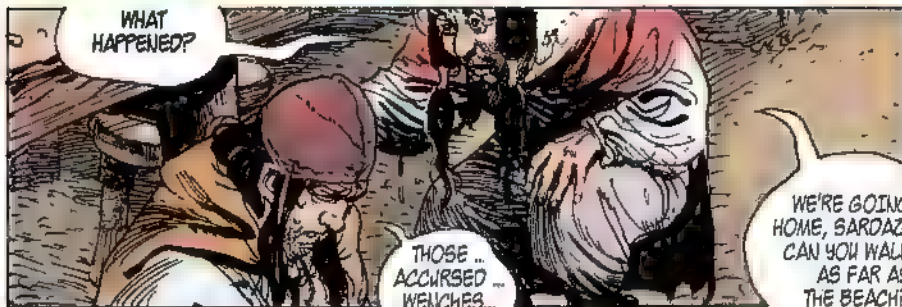




SARDAZ...
HHH HH... WE
MUST... HHH...



SARDAZ
?!?



WHAT
HAPPENED?

THOSE ...
ACCURSED
WENCHES...

WE'RE GOING
HOME, SARDAZ.
CAN YOU WALK
AS FAR AS
THE BEACH?



CAN'T...
MOVE...

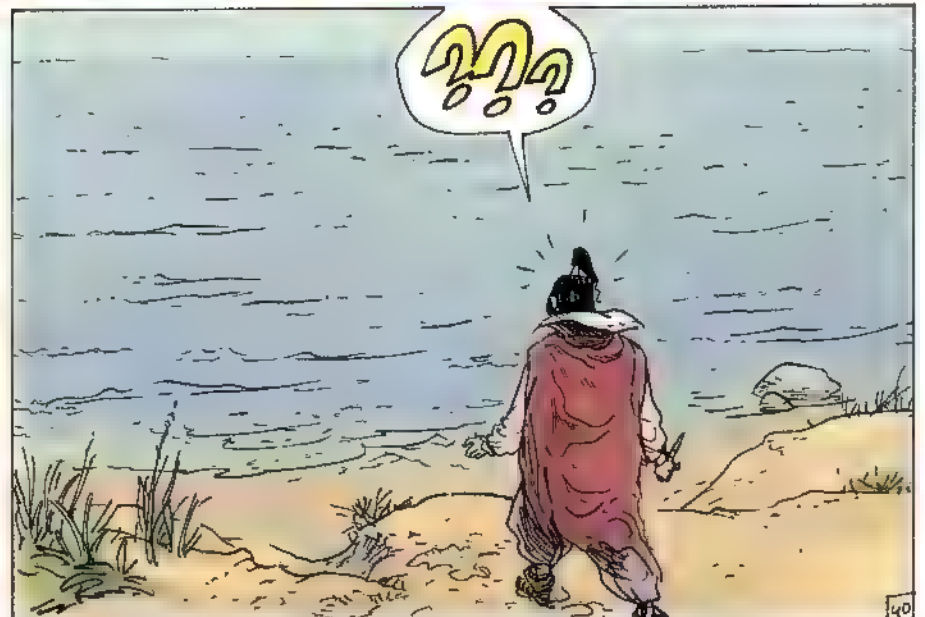
TOO BAD
FOR YOU
THEN.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?...

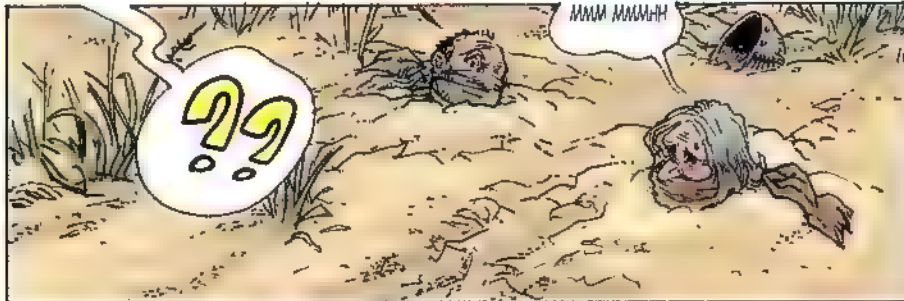


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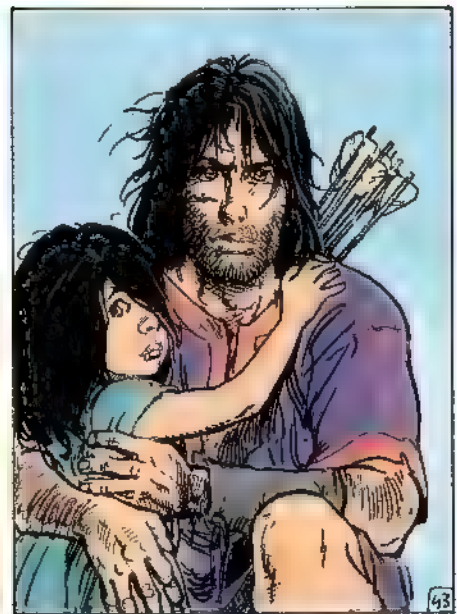
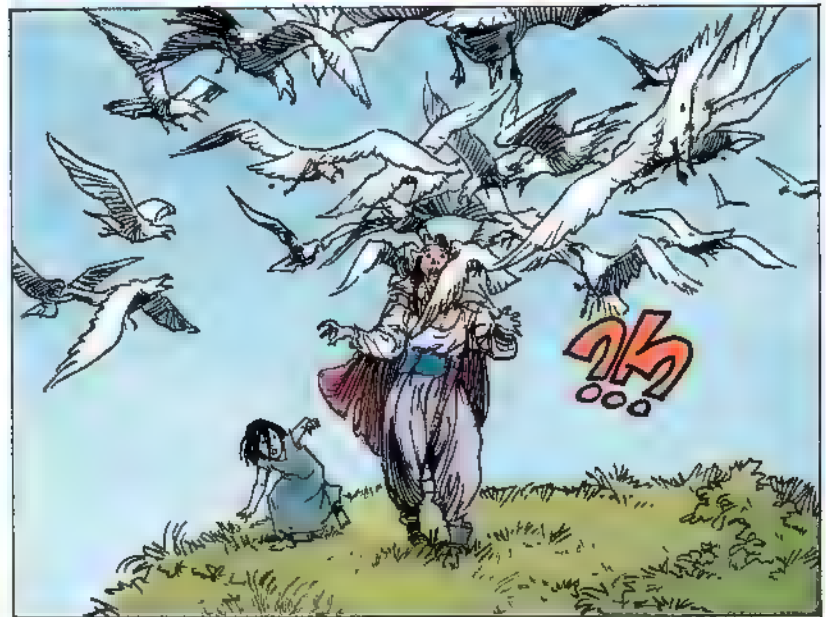
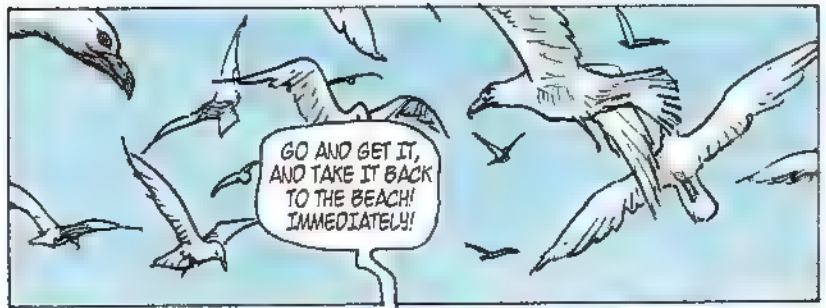
SORRY, MY
FLAYED FRIEND,
BUT WHEN THE SHIP'S
SINKING, IT'S EVERY
MAN FOR HIMSELF.
SAVE ME A PLACE
IN HELL.

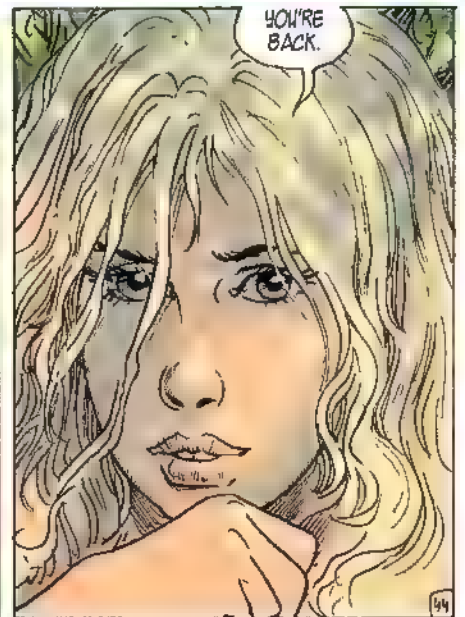
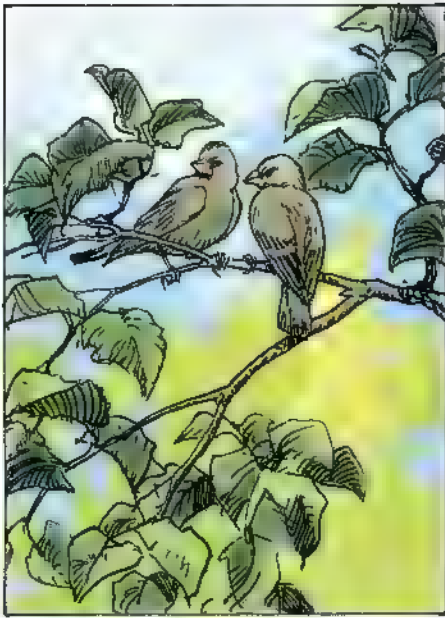


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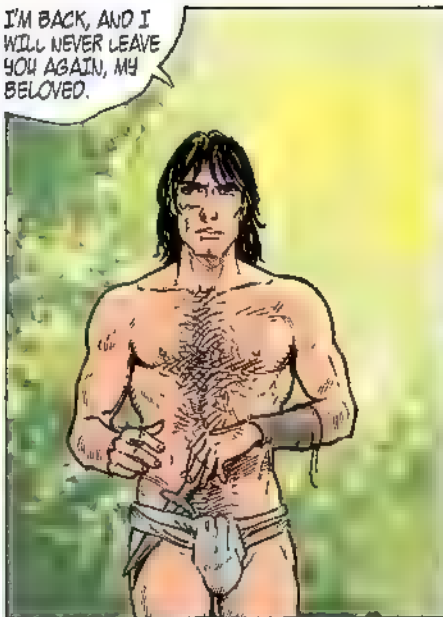






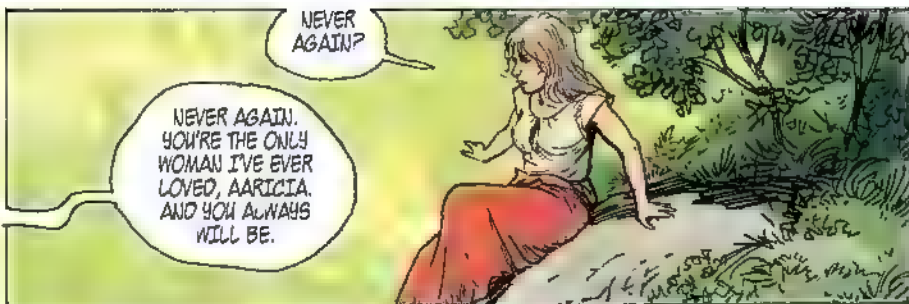


I'M BACK, AND I
WILL NEVER LEAVE
YOU AGAIN, MY
BELOVED.



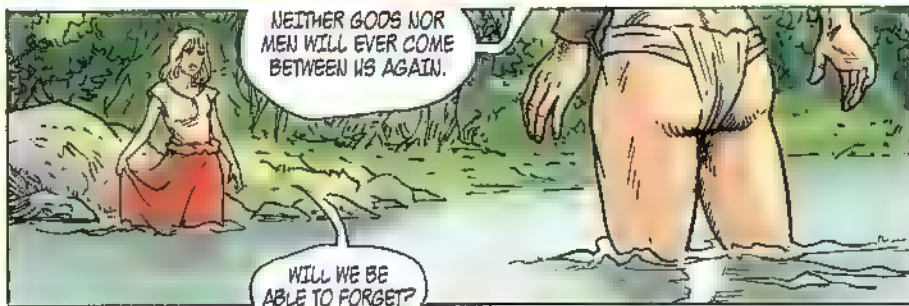
NEVER
AGAIN?

NEVER AGAIN.
YOU'RE THE ONLY
WOMAN I'VE EVER
LOVED, AARICIA.
AND YOU ALWAYS
WILL BE.



NEITHER GODS NOR
MEN WILL EVER COME
BETWEEN US AGAIN.

WILL WE BE
ABLE TO FORGET?



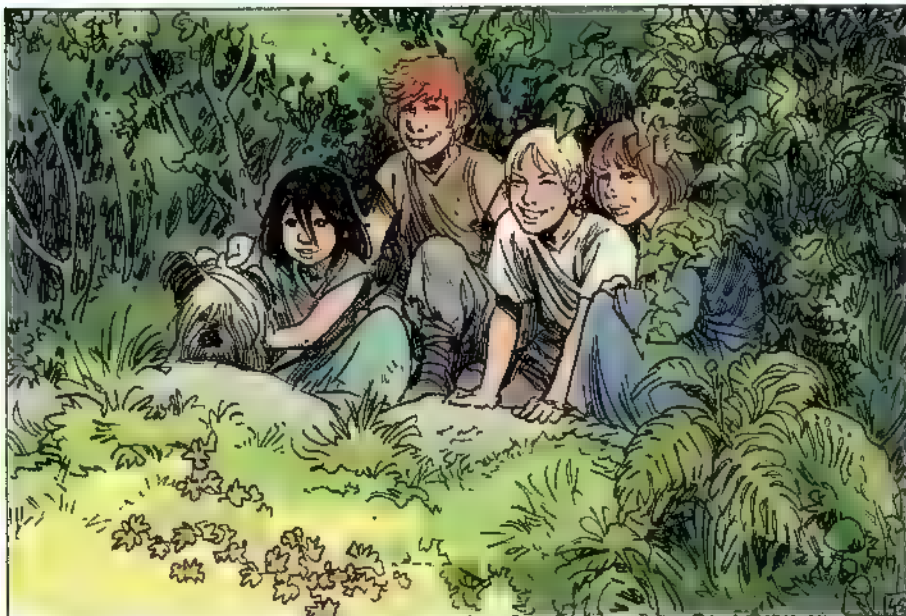
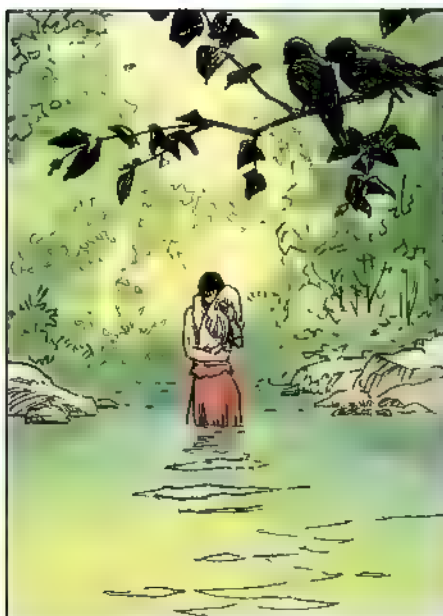
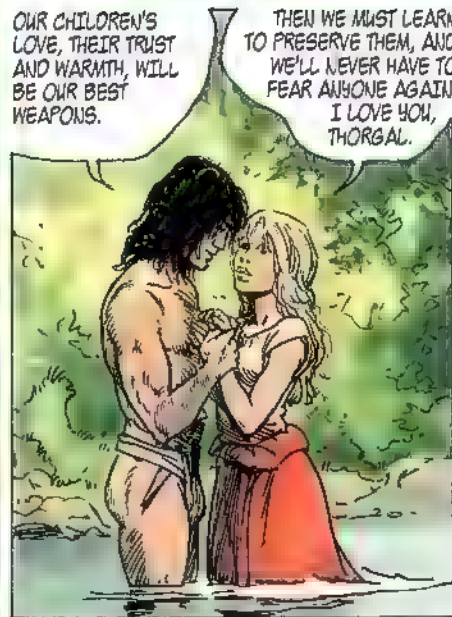
I HOPE SO,
WITH ALL MY HEART.
WILL YOU FORGIVE
ME?

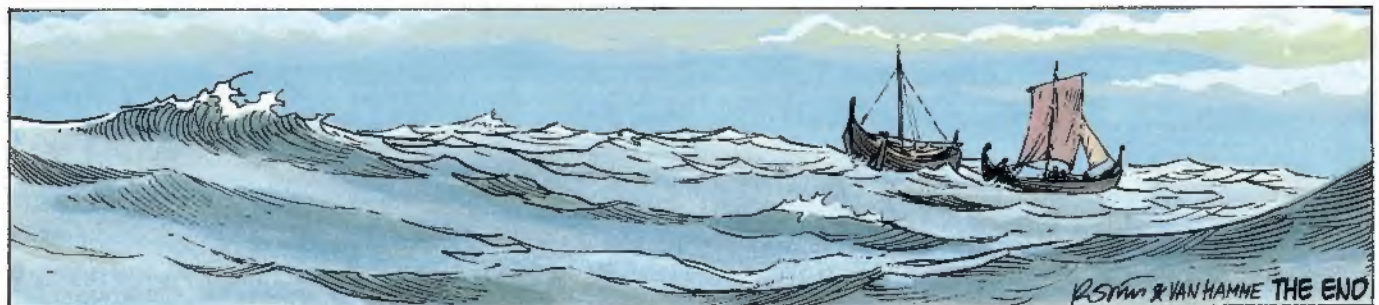
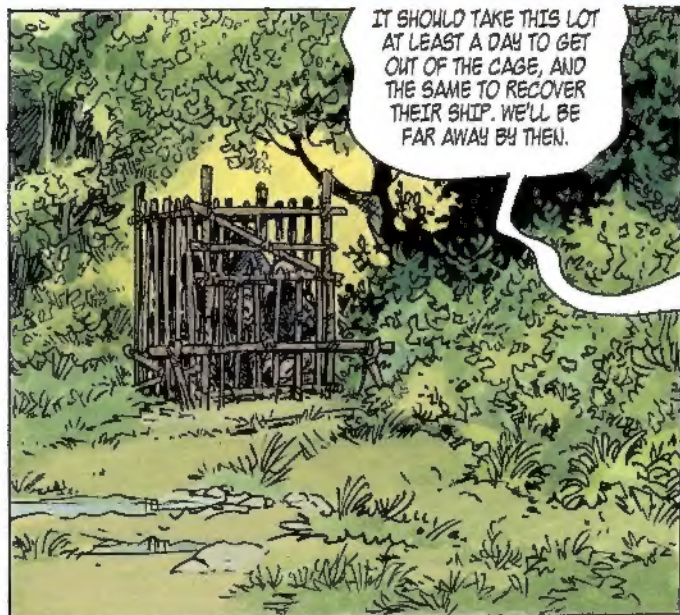
I HOPE
SO, WITH ALL
MY SOUL.



OUR CHILDREN'S
LOVE, THEIR TRUST
AND WARMTH, WILL
BE OUR BEST
WEAPONS.

THEN WE MUST LEARN
TO PRESERVE THEM, AND
WE'LL NEVER HAVE TO
FEAR ANYONE AGAIN.
I LOVE YOU,
THORGAL.





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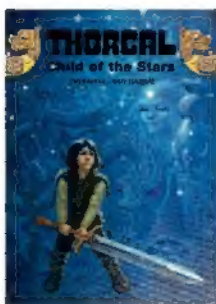
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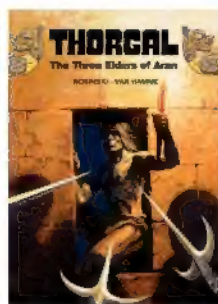


THORCAL

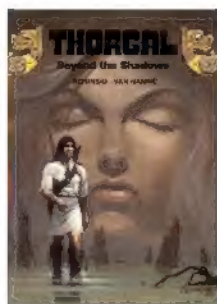
THE GODS HAVE PUT A MAN TO THE TEST



1 Child of the Stars
Incl. Aaricia



2 The Three Elders of Aran
Incl. The Black Galley



3 Beyond the Shadows
Incl. The Fall of Brek Zarith



4 The Archers
Incl. Alinoe



5 The Land of Qa
Incl. The Eyes of Tanatloc



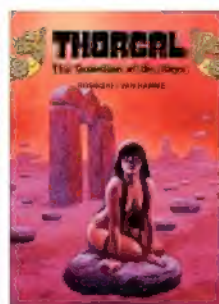
6 City of the Lost God
Incl. Between Earth and Sun



7 The Master of the Mountains



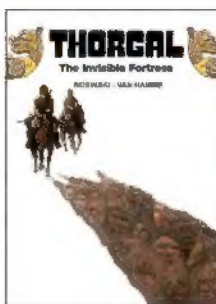
8 Wolf Cub



9 The Guardian of the Keys



10 The Sun Sword



11 The Invisible Fortress



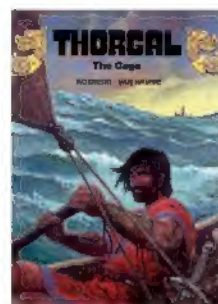
12 The Brand of the Exiles



13 Ogotai's Crown



14 Giants



15 The Cage



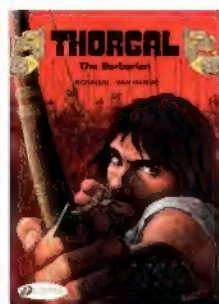
16 Arachnea



17 The Blue Fever



18 The Kingdom Beneath the Sand



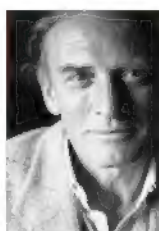
19 The Barbarian



20 Kriss of Valnor



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